



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Strategic Forces 'Awaiting Orders' on Targeting

PM2701154092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
28 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Boris Yeltsin: Our Missiles Will Not Be Targeted on U.S. Cities. The Missilemen of the Commonwealth Strategic Forces Await the Order"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's sensational statement in an ABC television interview that from Monday 27 January this year Russian nuclear missiles will cease to be targeted on U.S. cities has prompted many commentaries.

Some of the mass media took this announcement as a promise by the Russian president that our missiles will not be targeted on America at all, and asked: Then where will they be targeted—into space, into the deserts, or on what other countries and cities?

IZVESTIYA's correspondent asked the experts for an explanation. At the Strategic Missile Forces Main Staff they reminded me that this initiative is by no means the first by our country in the sphere of strategic disarmament. Last October we pledged unilaterally to remove from alert status 503 ICBM's equipped with a total of 1,154 nuclear warheads. We removed from alert status all heavy bombers armed with cruise missiles, stopped work on programs for the creation of mobile small ICBM's and modernized short-range nuclear missiles for heavy bombers and the modernization of ICBM's for railroad missile systems, and amended the schedule for reducing strategic offensive arms down to a total level of 5,000 weapons (instead of 6,000 under the START Treaty).

These same initiatives set the following time scale for the completion of the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons: for the Navy—1995; for nuclear warheads on anti-aircraft missiles—1996; for nuclear mines—1998; and for nuclear warheads on tactical missiles and nuclear artillery shells—2000.

But this timetable has even now been revised. All tactical nuclear weapons are to be withdrawn from the Ukraine by 1 July this year, and they are already being withdrawn. The same process has begun in Belarus. All these tactical nuclear weapons, in compliance with the Agreement on Strategic Forces Between the Commonwealth Member States, will be destroyed with the participation of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine, with joint verification.

Moreover, at the Minsk meeting 30 December last year it was decided to remove strategic nuclear weapons entirely from Ukrainian territory by the end of 1994, and to dismantle them. Strategic nuclear weapons are to be withdrawn from the territory of the Republic of Belarus in 1996-1997.

The Soviet military hope that all these steps—and they were no simple or easy matter for us (seven years are allowed for the fulfillment of the START Treaty alone,

yet here this enormous work will have to be carried out in practice in just over two years)—should prompt an appropriate response from our partners. Not only the Americans, but also the French and the British—the leadership of all those countries that possess strategic nuclear weapons and whose missiles are not, of course, targeted on outer space.

Disarmament, Soviet experts believe, should follow an agreed path, be built on parity principles, and allow no one any advantages. That is the guarantee of international stability.

As for the Russian president's new initiative, the strategic missilemen told IZVESTIYA's correspondent that it would be a fine thing for the relaxation of international tension if the missiles of all the members of the nuclear club were targeted not on cities with a population of many millions, but for the time being only on missile bases and arsenals, missile launchers, missile assembly plants, control centers, and other similar targets. The Soviet missilemen are prepared to fulfill their leadership's orders. Admittedly, technically this will take a certain time, several days at least. But if they receive a directive (ukazaniye) to that effect from the Russian president, then it will certainly be adopted for implementation.

While IZVESTIYA's correspondent was talking with experts at the Strategic Missile Forces Main Staff, everyone was waiting for Boris Yeltsin to deliver a statement on Russia's new defensive doctrine. Let us hope that this will cast more light on his statement to ABC television beforehand.

Further on Retargeting Pledge

PM2801100592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 1

[Aleksandr Golts report: "Russian President B.N. Yeltsin: 'We Want To Change Our Military Doctrine'"]

[Text] The nuclear disarmament "race" has taken another turn, perhaps the most breathtaking to date. In an interview with the U.S. ABC television company, Russian President B. Yeltsin announced that intercontinental ballistic missiles under Russian control would soon no longer be aimed any cities in the United States. "We want to change our military doctrine," the president stated, "and no longer view the United States as our potential adversary." B. Yeltsin said that he intends to make an official statement on this score 27 January, and repeat it at the 31 January session of the leaders of the member states of the UN Security Council. The U.S. President has already been informed of Russia's decision.

It should be mentioned that G. Bush will also not be coming empty-handed to this session, which is devoted to strengthening security on the planet in the new conditions. According to U.S. press reports, substantial changes in U.S. strategic planning will be announced. In particular, there is a suggestion that already today, in his annual "State of the Union" message to Congress, Bush

will announce the giving up of land-based MX strategic missiles and a significant proportion of the "Trident" sea-launched missiles. Work on the new "Midgetman" intercontinental missile will be halted. The U.S. Department of Energy will halt production of nuclear warheads.

And so, we are possibly witness to a fundamental change in military strategy, the basis of which for the last four decades has been the military confrontation of the USSR and the United States. And now the two largest nuclear powers, having given up the long, and not always productive talks and acting unilaterally on the basis of setting a good example, are eliminating the material means of confrontation—their nuclear-missile potential. The threat which only yesterday hung over mankind, the threat of nuclear war, is diminishing before our very eyes. The new initiatives are especially important now, when mankind is passing through a most important critical moment. On the one hand, B. Yeltsin's initiative enables the fears of Western countries concerning the fate of the former USSR's nuclear potential to be lifted to a significant decree. And on the other, G. Bush's reciprocal initiative enables Russia to do this without feeling concern about its own security.

However, at the present time it is not just the readiness of Moscow and Washington to reduce nuclear arsenals that is of great significance, but also their ability to maintain strategic stability. And it has to be said that such a fundamental change in strategic planning may provoke by no means only worldwide approval, but also some misgivings. I will cite just one example. So much information has appeared in U.S. newspapers about the Pentagon experts' review of their strategic goals that it has served as the basis for all kinds of speculation. KYODO reported that experts are proposing to aim missiles away from the former USSR and to target them on other countries possessing, or able to possess, weapons of mass destruction. This list allegedly includes not only China, India, the DPRK, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Algeria, and the Republic of South Africa, but even Japan and Germany.

I suspect that similar questions may arise with regard to our missiles also. Indeed, what is to be their future if they are no longer aimed at U.S. cities? I personally think that B. Yeltsin's decision does not mean that our nuclear missile systems will be re-aimed at some other targets. But in that case, we are in effect talking about taking a significant part of the nuclear missile potential off alert status.

At the same time, let us not forget that, according to the Alma-Ata agreements, the strategic potential of the former USSR is viewed as a means of ensuring the security of all the member states of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. And in conditions where the future of the Armed Forces remains extremely hazy, the strategic deterrence forces are virtually the only means of maintaining defensive capabilities. Has Moscow conducted consultations on this question with the nuclear and nonnuclear republics of the CIS? And

what, in that case, is to be the future of the strategic missiles deployed on the territory of the Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan?

Unfortunately, in line with the worst traditions of Soviet foreign policy, once more we learned of the cardinal new changes in military strategy from foreign mass media reports. Has this question been analyzed by our military experts, and if so, to what degree? My colleague Colonel A. Belousov, editor of the Rocket Troops and Air Defense Troops Combat Training desk, phoned a representative of the Strategic Rocket Troops Main Staff, in order to discover their reaction to the Russian president's initiative. It was just as the reaction of military men should be: The decision about where the missiles are aimed, they said there, is not made by the Rocket Troops Command, but by the political leadership. As for the technical side of the matter, it is of course, an extremely complex question, and requires deep study and analysis. At the same time, specialists believe, it is important to see that parity is maintained.

U.S. Welcomes Yeltsin Offer

LD2701195692 Moscow TASS in English 1942 GMT
27 Jan 92

[Text] Washington January 27 TASS—"We welcome any measures that reduce the threat and risks to the United States and our allies from the states of the former Soviet Union," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told ABC news today.

"President Yeltsin's reported statements on targeting appear to be a very important and positive step in that direction and we look forward to hearing details," he said.

He commented on Yeltsin's statement in an ABC interview that Russia-controlled strategic nuclear missiles would no longer be targeted on the United States.

"We believe him and look forward to hearing the details," Fitzwater emphasised.

At the same time the White House spokesman said the United States was not changing the targeting of its nuclear weapons on CIS countries. This is connected with the fact that the U.S. side "Cannot, however, ignore the fact that the size of the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union has not yet changed substantially. The targeting for those weapons cannot be independently verified".

However, the presidential press secretary did not rule out the possibility of similar U.S. measures in the future, pointing out that the U.S. might take such a decision when it possesses appropriate information and data and only when, in U.S. view, that would be appropriate.

Solton Assesses Statement

LD2701160292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1210 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Commentary by Yuri Solton]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has said that Russia's intercontinental ballistic missiles will soon not be targeted at any city in the United States. Yuri Solton comments:

The statement is dramatic. It spells out a fundamental change in the nuclear doctrine. As a matter of fact, Russia is in the process of abandoning the doctrine of mutual nuclear deterrent which has maintained the strategic balance ever since World War II.

It was not the Soviet Union who started the nuclear arms race. The Pentagon's plans, declassified today, have confirmed that Moscow's fears about a risk of nuclear strikes against large Soviet cities and military facilities were justified. However, it was no other than the Soviet Union who, in January 1986, announced its intention to build a nuclear-free and safe world, and put forward specific proposals to that effect.

Until recently that statement was dismissed as propaganda. These days this idea has begun taking shape. The clock of history, which came close to the doomsday mark, has been set back. Soviet and U.S. nuclear missiles of intermediate and shorter range have been scrapped. A treaty limiting and reducing strategic offensive arms has been signed. Both Washington and Moscow have said that they will go further and that most tactical nuclear arms will be scrapped.

Yet even after all that, the White House kept complaining that the nuclear missiles of the two countries are still targeted at their original targets.

And now, there comes Moscow's statement that not a single big city in the United States will be a target for Russian missiles. Russia's leadership has confirmed once again that it no longer considers the United States as its potential enemy and that it is going to cooperate with America in building a new, safe world order.

However, all that may prove easier said than done. A number of serious questions are still to be answered. For instance, what can pacify the hawks in the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the successor of the Soviet Union? What role is going to be played by the strategic forces? And one more question—probably the most important of all—what kind of response will come from the United States?

The first signs have been encouraging. As he will address a joint session of both houses of the U.S. Congress on Tuesday [28 January] with the State of the Union message, President Bush is expected to declare a major cut in U.S. strategic nuclear potential, including the strategic forces. The WASHINGTON POST says for the first time ever since the beginning of the nuclear age the

United States will stop the production of all nuclear warheads and refrain from developing new ones. U.S. tactical nuclear warheads are being moved to the facilities where they will be scrapped. However, U.S. strategic missiles are still targeted against Russia and other former Soviet republics.

When they meet at Camp David on the first of next month, President Bush and President Yeltsin will have a chance to coordinate the process of nuclear disarmament. However, it has already become clear that the nuclear disarmament steps Moscow and Washington have been taking will make the world a safer place.

Scrapping of Tactical Nuclear Arms Possible

LD2501190192 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] When he meets President Bush in Washington in a week's time, Russian President Boris Yeltsin may propose the complete scrapping of tactical nuclear armaments.

Swift Solutions Needed To Stem Brain Drain

LD2801103692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT
26 Jan 92

[Correspondent Nikolay Ivanov report from Kurchatov Institute, from the "Itogi" program presented by Yevgeniy Kiselev]

[Excerpts] [Kiselev] How is it possible to prevent the drain of scientists with knowledge of the technology for creating nuclear weapons from the former USSR to countries striving to obtain them? How serious is this threat, which the whole world's press was talking about last week?

[Ivanov] Kurchatov [Soviet nuclear physicist Igor Vasilovich Kurchatov, 1903-60, founder of the Kurchatov Institute] would most probably have regarded the proposal to create nuclear weapons somewhere in Libya or Iraq as an insult. However, today's nuclear physicists, who have lost their elite status are being compelled to contemplate such questions. According to the estimates of the CIA Director, about one million people are engaged in implementing the nuclear programs of the former USSR, and 2,000 have knowledge enabling them to develop nuclear weapons.

At the Institute of Atomic Energy they believe the latter figure to be rather larger, approximately 10,000. [passage omitted] However, we have learned from competent sources that there are still restrictions on persons possessing secret information from leaving the country, not only to take up permanent residence but even on contract.

Ways of resolving the crisis lie somewhere between the state subsidizing nuclear scientists and the idea of Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev on the setting up of a

Russian-Western support fund. Some experts believe that the IAEA should be urged to finance civilian nuclear programs in the Commonwealth of Independent States and that the best alternative for security would be the setting up of a nuclear (?pool) under UN auspices.

Can nuclear traders be kept under control? While this question used to be purely hypothetical, at the beginning of January an offer appeared on a Moscow exchange for the sale of a complete nuclear reactor. Even if most nuclear scientists turn out to be altruists and patriots, there will always be some people for whom a couple of thousand dollars will seem more tempting than 10 a month.

It is clear that where it is a case of contracts abroad, there are fewer and fewer lyricists among the physicists. Given these circumstances, blanket surveillance of potential nuclear mercenaries or a ban on foreign travel are unlikely to have a powerful effect. The one thing that does concern specialists in nuclear power engineering today is that direct state financing or the setting up of various funds should take place quite quickly.

Report of Nuclear Bomb Sales to Iran Viewed

NC2501101792 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Sergey Viktorov commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners. Yuliy Vorontsov, the Russian Federation's UN representative, denied reports that Iran had purchased three Soviet nuclear bombs.

A Paris-based, Arabic-language magazine carried a sensational report that Iran had purchased three nuclear bombs and invited 50 former Soviet experts [to Iran], and more precisely, from one of the Muslim-inhabited republics. The name of the republic was not mentioned.

It is quite possible this news would have prompted the expected reaction in social circles. This (?rumor) that the republics of the former Soviet Union are selling nuclear arms and thus are trampling on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which the Soviet Union had signed, naturally would be spread in a conducive atmosphere. This is because people all over the world are extremely concerned about the fate of the Soviet Union.

As you can see, in these circumstances the Russian Federation, as the legitimate heir of the Soviet Union, was forced to take an official step at the highest level. Russian UN Representative Yuliy Vorontsov announced that such reports [of nuclear weapons sales] are unfounded.

The (?circulation) of this baseless report in Paris was not difficult at all. It is not even necessary to reiterate the remarks of the Armed Forces general commanders or CIS politicians to keep assuring the world that nuclear arms are under reliable control. The issue is that none of those former Soviet republics, which usually are termed

Muslim-inhabited republics, have nuclear arms that they can sell to a third party without being subject to control.

As for Kazakhstan, which has nuclear weapons, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev cherishes the credibility of his republic. He never would enter into dubious transactions over nuclear weapons. In addition, if someone today were to ask Kazakhstan to cheat on the nuclear weapons issue, he would get nowhere.

After all, in Kazakhstan, as in all other former Soviet republics, these weapons are rigorously controlled by the Armed Forces, and non-military officials do not have access to them. At present, it is not known what the Paris magazine's source of information was in disseminating the report on the (?illicit) sale of Soviet nuclear weapons to Iran. Similarly, the objective of publishing such a report is not very clear. It may not be too far-fetched, however, that those behind this could be the ones who stand to gain from undermining the credibility of the newly forged relations between the CIS countries and Tehran.

France's Dumas Probes CIS Nuclear Safety

PM2801091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Elmar Guseynov report: "Roland Dumas Expresses Concern"]

[Text] The shadow of alarm provoked in the West by the inadequate security of nuclear facilities in the countries of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] has still not been completely dispelled. This was one of the main conclusions of the visit to the four nuclear republics of the CIS by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas which ended 26 January.

Control over nuclear weapons and civilian atomic facilities, the problem of "brain drain" in the sphere of nuclear technologies, and also the economic problems of the former USSR—these were the main topics of R. Dumas' conversations with the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, and Belarus. All the signs suggest that the French minister has not overcome, as a result of these talks, existing fears over the vagueness of the status of nuclear facilities on the territory of the former USSR.

Above all, Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev refuted the claims of B. Yeltsin and Ye. Shaposhnikov, who in the course of meetings in Moscow assured R. Dumas that accords had been reached within the CIS on the transfer in the near future of the entire strategic nuclear arsenal from the other republics to Russian territory, with the aim of subsequently destroying it. The Kazakhstan president also recalled the fact that single control over the strategic forces of the former USSR is supposed to be maintained in line with the Minsk accords. He gave to understand that Kazakhstan does not intend to part with the strategic nuclear forces situated on its territory in the immediate future.

At the same time, N. Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan will strictly observe all agreements in the sphere of arms reductions and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons concluded in the past by USSR leaders. The Kazakhstan president in conversation with R. Dumas refuted the rumors of an exodus from the republic to other countries of nuclear specialists and nuclear technology.

The French foreign minister's talks with the leaders of the Ukraine and Belarus turned out to be significantly more reassuring. These republics are showing a readiness to withdraw strategic and tactical nuclear weapons from their territories in the immediate future. On one condition, however: The withdrawal of weapons and their subsequent destruction on Russian soil must be monitored by representatives from Kiev and Minsk.

Interestingly, in his final press conference at the end of his visit, R. Dumas devoted a considerable amount of

time to talking about the adoption in the CIS of a decisionmaking system on the use of nuclear weapons. He claims that the "nuclear briefcase" is in the hands of the Russian president alone. However, he is able to make a decision to press the lethal button only after consulting the leaders of the other nuclear republics on a special "black telephone."

Although as a result of the visit protocols were signed on the opening of French diplomatic missions in the capitals which R. Dumas visited, and also on cooperation in the economic sphere and in the sphere of control over the security of civilian nuclear facilities, the general tone of early commentaries of Western observers is not too optimistic. News captions have highlighted as being of most importance R. Dumas' statement to the effect that the problem of nuclear security in the CIS is "far from being settled."

Five Republics Receive CSCE Observer Status*LD2801120892 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT
28 Jan 92*

[By TASS correspondent Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague January 28 TASS—The committee of CSCE senior officials has decided to grant the status of observer at the current session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Croatia and Slovenia.

The final decision will be made by the council of CSCE foreign ministers in Prague on January 30.

North Atlantic Council Considers CIS States*LD2701220892 Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT
27 Jan 92*

[Report by TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels January 28 TASS—A meeting of ambassadors and permanent representatives of member-countries of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, set up on the NATO initiative last December, discussed on Monday [27 January] the expansion of the Council's membership.

Meeting Chairman and NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told the meeting participants, essential concord has been achieved as regards the admission of former Soviet republics to the organization on condition of their recognition of the statement on dialogue, partnership and cooperation adopted by the Council's constituent session.

Russian Ambassador Nikolay Afanasyevskiy told the session, in the opinion of Russia, all the republics of the former Soviet Union should be admitted to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council.

He said the Russian leadership views the forum as a most important mechanism of inter-state communication in the sphere of policy of security and sees its participants as reliable partners and potential allies.

An agreement has been reached at the meeting to convene an extraordinary session of the council at the level of foreign ministers to decide on the admission of the Commonwealth member states to the organization.

Shevardnadze Comments on Integration Problems*LD2601054292 Moscow TASS in English 1148 GMT
25 Jan 92*

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—A publication in today's issue of the independent NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA paper is devoted to the two-day international conference on problems of integration and disintegration in Europe.

The conference, to which eminent scholars and political scientists from the United States, Germany, France, Hungary, Poland, Russia and other Commonwealth states were invited, was organized by the Foreign Political Association of Eduard Shevardnadze and the Adenauer Foundation.

"I am the advocate of creating a single Euro-Asian space. I think all Asian republics of the former Soviet Union will want to participate in building a common European home," Shevardnadze said in his address to the conference.

On the situation in the former Soviet Union, Shevardnadze said: "The Commonwealth of Independent States came into being very rapidly, spontaneously, on the basis of resolute decisions by the leaders of states. Many issues, primarily in the field of bilateral relations, remained unresolved: Economic links broke up, the problem of borders, the military-strategic space and the armed forces is being aggravated.

"The situation is being exacerbated by the failure to set up the necessary coordinating and dialogue structures of the Commonwealth. There is no mechanism for solving disputable issues, forging compromises and identifying disagreements. If stability in the Commonwealth is not attained, the Helsinki process, too, may fall victim to what is happening in the Commonwealth."

"But if we in the West and in the East do not lose common sense and understand the peculiar nature of the present period, we will be able to use the very significant political asset accumulated by us and, moreover, move forward along the path of integration," Shevardnadze said.

Gorbachev, UK Ambassador on Support for CIS*OW2801013892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1915 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former president of the USSR has said that reforms in Russia and other countries of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] need real support, not commentaries. Mikhail Gorbachev was speaking at a meeting with the British Ambassador Roderick Braithwaite. The office of the former President has said the meeting was held behind closed doors. Mikhail Gorbachev is reported to have urged the West to promote fundamental reforms in Russia in every possible way, because their collapse would spell the end of all democratic forces. About the future of the CIS the ex-President said it was important to make what was referred to as the Commonwealth worthy of its name.

Interviewed by IF [INTERFAX], the British ambassador said that Mikhail Gorbachev's views were very valuable and important, because his political experience was enormous.

IF has learned that within there will be the official presentation of the Mikhail Gorbachev Foundation, which will have an international status. [sentence as received] It will maintain intensive contacts with similar foundations in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Mikhail Gorbachev's associates have told IF that the Soviet ex-president works at the foundation every day till 1900 or 2000.

Foundation's Organization Discussed

LD2701195192 Moscow TASS in English
1805 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhan-skiy]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—Every effort should be exerted to give vital capacity to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said at a meeting with British ambassador to Russia Roderic Braithwaite on Monday [27 January].

The reforms in the former Soviet Union encounter many obstacles as economic ties have been severed, Gorbachev admitted, but stressed it is important to boost reforms now rather than to comment on the drawbacks. The failure of the reforms would mean a blow at all the democrats, the former president said.

The West can help and promote reforms in the Commonwealth, and first and foremost in Russia, as it is the "engine" of economic transformations, Gorbachev stressed.

Gorbachev briefed the ambassador on the foundation he had created.

The "Gorbachev" foundation is not going to merge with an analogous Western organisation, the former president's office reported, denying some Western media allegations. The foundation is going to closely cooperate with similar organisations of Europe, the United States, Japan and other countries, the office said.

Braithwaite told TASS after the meeting he is leaving for London on Tuesday [28 January] to take part in the preparations for the visit of the Russian president, scheduled for January 30. The meeting between Boris Yeltsin and British Prime Minister John Major is very important politically, according to the ambassador. The two statesmen will focus on economic cooperation and on British aid to the Russian economic reforms, he said.

UK's Major Interviewed on Relations With CIS

LD2701212192 Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT
27 Jan 92

["Text" of interview with British Prime Minister John Major with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA editor in chief Vitaliy Tretyakov; place and date not given]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—Follows the full text of the interview with British Prime Minister John Major to Vitaliy Tretyakov, the editor-in-chief of the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" newspaper, to be published on Tuesday, January 28:

Question [Q]: Mr. Prime Minister, is there a possibility that Britain as a nuclear power could alter its defence and foreign policies bearing in mind that the process of "carving up" the ex-Soviet nuclear arsenal hasn't finished yet and it is not quite certain what kind of outcome might emerge? And should Britain do it anyway?

Answer [A]: We and our NATO allies have already responded to the changing security environment. NATO's London summit in 1990 reflected this, as did the Rome summit last November. The result has been the greatly reduced dependence of NATO on nuclear weapons. But at the same time there has been reaffirmation of the fact that our security will continue to depend in part on nuclear deterrence. Our priority now is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the former Soviet Union. NATO foreign ministers have made it clear that the West is ready to help with this.

Q.: What is the British attitude towards the problem of Black Sea Fleet in the framework of relations between Russia and Ukraine?

A.: It is not for Britain to decide the future of the Black Sea Fleet. But we share a vital interest in seeing stable and friendly relations built between the states of the new Commonwealth. We have continually stressed the need to settle peacefully, by dialogue and agreement, all problems arising from the breakup of the Soviet Union. Douglas Hurd reiterated this point during his recent visits to Kiev and Moscow. The signs are that the Ukrainian and Russian leaders are working towards a negotiated settlement: we heartily welcome this.

Q.: Do you have a perfectly clear understanding of what the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] really means?

A.: The CIS is providing a vital framework in which the states of the former Soviet Union can negotiate and agree their new relationships with one another as independent countries. Of course much of the detail of the Commonwealth has still to be settled.

Q.: Which problems of especially grave nature, in your opinion, have arisen in Europe as a result of the emergence of several independent states instead of the USSR?

A.: One of the most serious problems is the future of the Soviet nuclear arsenal and the danger of proliferation. Leaders of the former republics concerned are taking a responsible attitude to the problem. We and our allies stand ready to offer advice and assistance. Another potential problem is disputes over boundaries and the treatment of ethnic minorities given that international boundaries have come into being, in many cases for the

first time. We have stressed to leaders of all former republics the importance of guarantees for the rights of persons belonging to ethnic and national groups and respect for the inviolability of all frontiers which can only be changed by peaceful means and by common agreement.

Q.: The Russian Federation leadership declared the willingness of Russia to become a successor state of the USSR in terms of its international obligations, including financial ones. Do you welcome such readiness? What is to be done by the Russian Government to make this succession a factor which would ensure stability in Europe and the world at large?

A.: We accept the Russian Federation as the continuing state of the USSR. This status of Russia means that there are no gaps in the continuation of Soviet international obligations, which could lead to uncertainty and instability in Russia's relations with the rest of the world. Russia's acceptance of financial obligations has been a very important step. I should add that, at the same time, we have stressed to other former republics the importance of adhering to international obligations in respect of their territories entered into by the Soviet Union.

Q.: If I'm not mistaken, it was your own initiative that prompted President Yeltsin to agree to address the UN Security Council. What would you expect of this address? Which themes would you think appropriate to be touched upon in his speech?

A.: Yes, the UN Security Council summit was a British initiative. Our aim at the summit will be to underline the importance of the UN Security Council in maintaining international peace and security, to examine ways in which the UN can enhance its ability to make and keep peace and to welcome the new Secretary General Dr. Boutros Ghali to his post. The Security Council will look forward to hearing President Yeltsin's views on these and other points.

Q.: What is the attitude of the UK towards the armed conflicts in the territories of the former USSR (Georgia, Moldavia, Karabakh)?

A.: Before recognising former republics, we and our partners in the European Community stressed the importance of settling by agreement, including where appropriate by recourse to arbitration, all regional disputes. We also stressed respect for the provisions of the charter of the UN and the commitments and principles in CSCE documents. The conflicts you mention arise from complex disputes which have no easy answer. But I urge those concerned on all sides to seek peaceful negotiated settlements for the good of their own peoples and for regional stability.

Q.: Could you elaborate on whether Britain may be prepared to pursue a differentiated foreign policy towards each of the republics of the former USSR? Are you ready to allow embassies of all fifteen former Soviet

republics to be opened in London? Which republics are you planning to visit in the near future?

A.: The development of our relations with each state will depend on our interests there and policies pursued by their governments. We have not yet taken a decision on recognition of Georgia. We have invited the other states to establish diplomatic relations with us. We are very happy to see any country with which we have relations open an embassy in London when it is ready to do so. I have no immediate plans for visits: We are due to have a general election in Britain soon. But high level visits will be important in the development of bilateral relations.

Q.: Before the 1917 revolution Britain had substantial interests in the Central Asian region, in the Caucasus and in Azerbaijan. Could this interest revive in respect of now independent states of the region?

A.: Times have moved on, and our relationship with the Central Asian and Caucasian regions will of course not be exactly the same it was before 1917. But there is potential for a substantive relationship between each of the new states and the UK. It will be difficult, however, to develop this in any countries where there is conflict.

Discusses Need for CIS Forum

*LD2801110292 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0700 GMT 28 Jan 92*

[Text] London, 28 Jan (TASS)— On the eve of the arrival in London of Russian Federation President B. N. Yeltsin, Prime Minister John Major of Great Britain gave an interview to TASS correspondent Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, in which he set forth his attitude to the setting up of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], the development of British-Russian ties, and a number of other issues. The text of this interview follows:

[Voskoboynikov] Prime Minister, what hopes do you attach to the setting up of the CIS? What evokes the greatest concern?

[Major] We are extremely interested in the existence of stable and friendly relations among the republics of the former USSR. The CIS offers the necessary structure to enable countries to conduct talks among themselves and agree upon the new relations among them. A considerable number of details affecting the CIS still have to be settled, and this may not be an easy process. It is important, however, that the CIS should create a forum for negotiations and discussions.

[Voskoboynikov] Some Western advisers who are acting as consultants to the Russian Government say that the economic reforms in my homeland will not be successful if the Western powers do not institute a stabilization fund to render assistance to the ruble. What, in your view, should the West do at the present stage?

[Major] I have tremendous admiration for the way the Russian Government set about implementing radical economic reforms. The West has upheld them politically

and also with the rendering of technical assistance, urgent food and medical aid, and the provision of fodder, with accords on deferment of debt repayment. The Russian Government's next step should be membership of the IMF and the further working out of a program of reforms by means of consultations with IMF experts. We have insistently called upon Russia to submit an application for IMF membership, which it has now done. We fully support Russia's swiftly becoming a member of this organization.

[Voskoboynikov] As far as I can judge, good mutual understanding is developing in relations between Great Britain and Russia. How would you describe these links? How is your relationship with Boris Yeltsin taking shape?

[Major] We have excellent relations with Russia. We spoke with President Yeltsin on 10 January over the telephone. I invited him to come to the summit meeting of UN Security Council member countries, and also discussed with him the development of events in Russia and the CIS. I am absolutely delighted at the position adopted by President Yeltsin during the August coup attempt and at the way he has led his country along the path of democratic and economic reforms since then. On 18-20 January, our foreign minister had full and useful discussions with President Yeltsin in Moscow. I expect our relations with President Yeltsin will be developed further during his forthcoming visit to London. I also hope that he will be able to pay a more extensive visit to our country in the near future.

[Voskoboynikov] Russia has assumed many of the former USSR's commitments. You, however, are doubtless striving to develop links with the other republics as well. Could you say what you intend to do in this respect, and what your guiding principles will be?

[Major] Even before the attempted coup d'etat in August we were expanding relations with the former Soviet republics, to which power was clearly transferring. We have now recognized all the republics of the former USSR except Georgia as independent states and offered to establish diplomatic relations with them. The future development of relations with these countries will be dependent on what kind of interests we have there, and also on what kind of policy their governments pursue. It would be premature to recognize Georgia because of its internal political upheavals. We and our EC partners, however, will be closely watching the situation there. Once Georgia meets our criteria for recognition and is in a position to answer the EC's request for guarantees in respect of a number of key policy areas, such as observance of human rights and disarmament, then we will be ready to consider recognition.

Cheney on 'Belief' in CIS Leaders, Democracy
924P0051A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA
in Russian No 4, 22 Jan 92 p 14

[Interview with Richard Cheney conducted by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA's Pentagon correspondent Edgar Cheporov, in Washington; date not given: "Richard Cheney: I Know How Difficult It Is Being a Defense Minister...."]

[Text] Washington—On a bookcase shelf in Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's reception room, together with gifts in honor of the newly appointed head of the military department assuming office, there stands a boot, a cowboy boot—pointed-toed, high-heeled, and made of yellow moroccan leather. "Mr Cheney is from cowboy parts, from Wyoming. And people from his region decided to present him with....," a secretary with the rank of sergeant explained to me.

Richard Cheney is a conservative politician at the head of the U.S. Defense Department—a pragmatic, intelligent, austere, and farsighted politician, in many people's opinion. He predicted two and a half years ago that Mikhail Gorbachev would be unable to transform the Soviet economy and would inevitably quit the scene. No officials were venturing such forecasts at that time. Richard Cheney's statement angered George Bush.

The secretary of defense does not aspire to make an impact in public—a style which is atypical of American politicians. Nor does he attempt to play the part of father-commander among the military. Visiting the zone of combat operations at the time of the Iraq war, the secretary did not garb himself in combat fatigues but continued to wear his civilian jacket and cowboy boots. Cheney is reserved and very composed. But this is most likely that same composure behind which mental storms are concealed. He had by his fifties suffered three heart attacks, but he plays tennis, jogs.... Cheney is a workaholic and stays in his office for 15 hours at a time. He is by education a professional political scientist and had even begun to write his doctoral thesis but abandoned it and went into politics. At the age of 34 he was President G. Ford's chief of staff. The press recorded the following detail at that time: This powerful official, a person close to the president, drives to the White House in an old Volkswagen and takes the wheel himself although he is entitled to a chauffeur-driven car.

Cheney was elected to the U.S. Congress and the House of Representatives for several terms, voted in support of Reagan's proposals as a rule, and was a supporter of strengthening American military power. He adopted a wait-and-see, if not skeptical, attitude toward perestroika in the USSR. Cheney has been the first U.S. secretary of defense in many decades to commence a reduction in military spending and advocate the abandonment of a number of costly programs.

"What are the reasons for civilian, political control of the Army," I asked Richard Cheney. "This problem is being debated extensively in our society and in the Army currently."

[Cheney] When a person embarks on a military career in the United States, he swears an oath to the Constitution of the United States, not an individual, not some institution or party, and not even the Army—he swears his loyalty to the Constitution. I did the same. I cannot imagine circumstances wherein we would want to renounce civilian control of the Army. These are the threads which link the people with their elected leaders. Civilian control guarantees army activity in accordance with the wishes of the people, not unelected politicians.

[Cheporov] You were one of the first persons in the American Government to support the idea of the independence of Ukraine even prior to the referendum; that is, you assigned priority to the republics, not the center. Why?

[Cheney] I had a premonition of serious change in the USSR: first, that the people of Ukraine would vote for independence; second, the old structure, which had been supported by the Communist Party and institutions which had discredited themselves in the course of the past two years, particularly since the unsuccessful August coup, had collapsed and had lost authority in the USSR. The old system had lost authority and legality, and this was a reason for increased pressure on the center from the republics aspiring to greater independence. The culmination of events was the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. I do not know whether this can be considered "clairvoyance" or not, but it seemed to me that everything had to happen thus.

[Cheporov] How would you comment on the disagreements in the military sphere between the former Soviet republics, specifically between Russia and Ukraine on the question of the Black Sea Fleet?

[Cheney] These are events which attract our close attention because the dispute over military facilities could become a conflict which affects nuclear facilities. This has not happened as yet. All the republics which were a part of the Soviet Union and which have now become members of the Commonwealth are displaying a sense of responsibility in respect of the control of nuclear weapons.

[Cheporov] How has American military strategy changed with the end of the "cold war"? What, in your view, should come to replace the doctrine of deterrence?

[Cheney] The end of the "cold war" has stimulated most appreciable changes in our strategy in the past four years and, generally, since the end of World War II. Our military plans had been designed mainly on the likelihood of a military conflict in Europe with the confrontation of the countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. This meant that it was necessary to maintain large forces in Europe and be prepared to transfer additional forces

to the region very quickly. The doctrine of deterrence envisaged the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons to ward off attacks against our European allies. We proceeded from the assumption that an attack would begin without warning and would gain momentum rapidly. This was the case in the past. We can now emphatically change everything. We have planned a considerable reduction in military forces in Europe and have revised NATO strategy completely, and we will reduce active-duty personnel at least 25 percent and from 1990 through 1995 will discharge no fewer than 1 million men: more than half a million on active duty, approximately a quarter of a million civilians, and a number of other categories.

We have cut the military budget considerably. It constituted approximately 27 percent of total federal spending, and we are bringing it down to 18 percent. By the mid-1990's our military spending will have reached the lowest level since the end of World War II. We have already lifted permanent combat-ready status for strategic bomber aviation, we are deactivating 45 percent of our ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, and are cutting the number of B-2 bombers and submarine Trident missile systems. Such important changes in our military system have become possible with the end of the "cold war." Our military plans now are geared more to the solution of regional conflicts like the war in the Persian Gulf. I consider such shifts very significant. If they are not yet complete, this is partly because we do not see the former Soviet Union as being completely clear about the strength of the military forces it needs. But one way or another, both parties are, I believe, moving in the right direction.

[Cheporov] Looking back into the past now, was it right to believe that the "cold war" was the wrong choice for both the USSR and the United States?

[Cheney] In my view, the "cold war" was imposed on America. After all, after World War II the United States had demobilized rapidly and had no intention of maintaining large Armed Forces in peacetime. But such processes as the strengthening of Soviet influence in East Europe, the creation of the so-called "iron curtain," the communists' seizure of power in Czechoslovakia in 1948, the war in Korea in 1950—all this forced us to decisively revise our postwar plans. Then there was the Berlin blockade in 1948, and we had to deploy considerable military forces to deter Soviet aggression. The use of Soviet military force in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Afghanistan convinced the West that it had no choice but to reciprocally build up its own military power. Now, however, following the changes in the former Soviet Union and the East European countries, we are pleased at the opportunity to reduce the armed forces and avail ourselves of all the advantages of the "era of peace".

[Cheporov] Do you believe that military power remains an acceptable instrument for the solution of complex political, ethnic, and religious conflicts?

[Cheney] The use of military force is an extreme means in such conflicts. It is better to seek peaceful paths.

[Cheporov] Is there a necessity for the United States to play the part of "international policeman"? Can America permit itself to be such in an era of economic difficulties?

[Cheney] America does not aspire to the role of "international policeman". We maintain sizable military forces in various regions of the world primarily because the United States is a major trading power, and it is extremely important for us that the oceans be free for world trade. Yes, we have interests overseas. These interests are sometimes threatened by conflicts like the war in the Persian Gulf. There will always be a need for military power to deter such aggression. But the United States has no desire to intervene in each regional conflict. After all, many of them do not affect our interests, but if our intervention is required, nonetheless, we would prefer to solve problems diplomatically through the United Nations or by means of economic sanctions. America is in a position to fulfill its commitments, is in a position to continue its military presence in different regions of the world—our allies need this, it is a factor of stability. In addition, we can now do this with fewer costs.

[Cheporov] Is the disintegration of the Soviet Union beneficial to the United States from the military standpoint?

[Cheney] The "benefit" from the events of recent years is primarily the fact that the threat of war has diminished to a considerable extent. For 40 years we were on the brink of a global conflict, and enormous forces with nuclear weapons confronted one another. We can now take steps toward a considerable easing of the threat of a military conflict, a reduction in arsenals on both sides and the fulfillment of the treaties which have already been concluded.

[Cheporov] The events in the former Soviet Union most likely demanded of Washington the adoption of a number of difficult decisions in the military sphere?

[Cheney] For the secretary of defense the most difficult have been the decisions on which military units to disband, with which weapon systems to dispense, which assembly lines to halt, and which military bases to close. And I have to be circumspect in making such decisions. If in 15-20 years there is suddenly a need to restore our military power in the event of a crisis, it is important that today's decisions enable us to do so.

[Cheporov] A few days ago you declared that the former Soviet Union was continuing to manufacture nuclear weapons. What does this mean for the United States?

[Cheney] The Soviet military-industrial complex is still a very great force. It represents huge economic potential. Part of the complex is still manufacturing nuclear

weapons, and programs for the production of new-generation ballistic missiles are still being implemented. As U.S. secretary of defense, I would like to see an end to this. I do not understand why under today's difficult economic conditions the Commonwealth of Independent States needs to expend precious resources on the manufacture of additional weapons at a time when the United States is reducing them. We have canceled a number of important military programs. I grant that in the former Soviet Union nuclear rearmament is proceeding by force of inertia—the decisions on a reallocation of resources have simply not been adopted yet. But I would note that it is not easy on the one hand to respond to requests for economic assistance and, on the other, seeing how your resources are being spent as before on military needs.

[Cheporov] How, in the Pentagon's opinion, should the millions of dollars the United States has set aside for the destruction of Soviet nuclear weapons be used?

[Cheney] We do not have some specific plan on this score. Negotiations are underway with countries of the Commonwealth on how to provide for the safety and security of the nuclear systems. I have to emphasize that the U.S. Government is satisfied with the responsibility with which Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the presidents of the other independent states of the Commonwealth are treating this problem. We proceed from the fact that although the former Soviet Union is experiencing a period of economic difficulties and fundamental political change, it will continue to keep control of the nuclear systems.

[Cheporov] Are American missiles even now targeted against the former Soviet Union?

[Cheney] We never respond specifically to such a question. The deployment of our missiles has always been determined chiefly by our tasks pertaining to the deterrence of attacks on the United States. Our military forces, as I have already said, have been cut back considerably and will continue to be cut back in the future. The United States possesses great potential here, which guarantees the country's security.

[Cheporov] What kind of military cooperation might there be, in your opinion, between the United States and the CIS?

[Cheney] Such cooperation could be a continuation of the process which has already begun. We have received Soviet military personnel here, and I and my colleagues have visited the former Soviet Union. I have an invitation from Defense Minister Shaposhnikov, although we have not yet arranged a precise date for the visit. I believe that such contacts are exceptionally important. We have actively discussed problems of conversion. In the future we could cooperate on problems of the threat on the part of states of the Third World.

There were formerly preliminary discussions between President M. Gorbachev and President G. Bush concerning joint action in the sphere of the early warning of a missile launch. The United States is interested in the development of cooperation in the sphere of modification of the agreement on the reduction of nuclear and conventional arms. It seems to us that the former republics also have an interest in the solution of this problem. It would also be useful to establish relations between the countries of the former Warsaw Pact and NATO. Opportunities for cooperation in the sphere of humanitarian assistance are opening up. This is already happening to some extent—our military aircraft are delivering food and medicines.

[Cheporov] What would you like to convey to Marshal Shaposhnikov through LITERATURNAYA GAZETA?

[Cheney] I wish him success in the accomplishment of an exceptionally difficult assignment—the formulation of

accords which will ensure control of the military forces of the Commonwealth. I know from my own experience how difficult it is being defense minister even under the most auspicious conditions.

[Cheporov] In April 1989 you said that Mikhail Gorbachev would leave office, having simply been unable to create a modern society in the country, and that he would be replaced by a figure hostile toward the West. The first part of your forecast has been borne out. Will the second come to pass?

[Cheney] I hope it does not. Americans are greatly excited by the changes now taking place in your country. A very strong impression was made on them by the courage of Boris Yeltsin and other people at the time of the August putsch. I believe that I will be a witness to the countries of the Commonwealth and their new leaders creating the conditions for the development of democracy. I believe in their success.

Commonwealth

'Time' Caused Postponement of Summit Meeting

LD2701120592 Moscow TASS in English
1126 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS— The Commonwealth summit, planned for late January, did not take place either in Minsk, or Moscow. "I think it is a matter of time, rather than any serious differences," Vladimir Pokrovskiy, first deputy chairman of the Russian Committee on Economic Cooperation with Commonwealth Member-States, told TASS.

Time is needed to study materials, prepared for the summit, he said, adding that experts from Commonwealth states should meet to discuss the summit first. Experts have been invited to come to Moscow this week, but no one knows for sure if they will come.

Russian Government experts have already submitted a package of documents, officials said.

The sides have already signed an agreement on economic issues, setting a 50 per cent profitability limit for producers—a measure aimed at containing spiralling prices.

Heads of government have been asked to meet in February to discuss free transit and lifting of quotas and licenses for certain products.

Attempts to transform the former Union into a new commonwealth have resulted in several contradictions, which can only be resolved through economic reforms and a mechanism designed to cement the Commonwealth, according to the government.

Such a mechanism is not yet in place and, its development is proceeding at a slow pace. Washington recently asked Commonwealth members to agree on individual quotas for U.S. meat, delivered against credits granted to the former Soviet Union.

Member-states have adopted provisional regulations for a working group that will prepare and hold meetings of the Council of Heads of State and Government. The working group should submit the provisional agenda of a meeting and documents, prepared by republics, to participants at least two weeks in advance.

Republican parliaments are also trying to put the Commonwealth's house in order. Last week they held an inter-parliamentary meeting in Minsk, agreeing to hold councils of parliament chairmen from Commonwealth member-states. They will meet at least twice a year to discuss inter-parliamentary cooperation and interstate relations.

"It is necessary to find a solution, acceptable for the sides in a situation when the laws of one state differ from laws

of the another one," Deputy Belarussian Parliament Chairman Vasily Sholodonov said.

Working meetings of heads of parliament will be held in the capitals of Commonwealth member-states on a rotation basis. Russians have suggested to set up a Commonwealth parliament assembly along the lines of the European parliament. The new body could cement the Commonwealth of Independent States, they said.

Shevardnadze Expresses Views to Italian Paper

LD2601151992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1200 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Implementation of radical economic reform in Russia should have been started far earlier. Then it could have been far less painful. This is the view of Eduard Shevardnadze, president of the Foreign Policy Association.

In an interview to the Italian newspaper LA REPUBBLICA he expressed the view that February-April 1992 will be the most difficult period. Shevardnadze did not rule out the possibility of bread riots breaking out. However, already in the second half of the year, the first signs of an improvement of the economic situation should be expected. Speaking of the difficulties in the path of the formation of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States], Shevardnadze noted that it is an unavoidable painful stage that subsequently will be overcome.

He ruled out the possibility of the contradictions between Russia and the Ukraine turning into an armed conflict.

Shevardnadze also noted the need for the creation within the CIS of reliable mechanisms for the coordination of economic and foreign policy activity.

Baltics

Congress Aims To Establish Free Economic Zone

OW2701150592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1356 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Congress of Estonian Citizens Tunne Kelam told a press conference in Tallinn that the main goal of setting up the Baltic Free Economic Zone [BFEZ] is "to build a bridge between the East and the West." He noted that the Baltic Free Economic Zone will include Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and the Kaliningrad region (which has already created a free economic zone "Yantar" on its territory).

Addressing the press conference, head of an expert group working on the BFEZ project Mr. Hoffman said that the group recommends modernization of the transport system in all the three republics, as well as building a road linking Germany and Russia through their territories.

In February the BFEZ project will be presented at a European Community meeting in Brussels.

Military

Budget Based on 'Need for Vital Structures'

LD2701190492 Moscow TASS in English
1836 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—"Russia has allocated not only appropriations to finance troops stationed on its territory but also provided its share for the maintenance of the strategic forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Actually all Armed Forces so far exist on Russian money," Lieutenant General Vasily Vorobyov, head of the Central Financial Department of the CIS Armed Forces, told TASS in comment on the law "On the budget system of the Russian Federation for the first quarter of 1992." The law envisages in particular the allocation of 50.4 billion roubles for defence.

Taking into account the deep crisis in the economies and finances of Russia and other CIS countries, the main command when forming a defence budget proceeded from the need to maintain vital structures of the Army and Navy. The question is whether the allocated funds will suffice to meet the minimum requirements of troops.

"It will be difficult to achieve but there is no other way out for the Armed Forces," General Vorobyov said.

"The question is being complicated by the fact that the structure of the Armed Forces virtually remains the same and we are bound to finance troops on the territories of all independent states, except Ukraine which finances troops of the military districts located on its territory independently since January 1992.

"Prices grow irresistibly. The cost of a soldier's daily allowance grew up to 21 roubles as against 1.27 rouble in 1990 or 17-fold, and that of uniform—30-40-fold", Vorobyov said.

"We have worked out principles for the share of each independent state in the formation of a common defence budget. An appropriate agreement to this effect has been drafted but the question remains unresolved as of today," General Vorobyov said.

Naval Morale, 'Confusion,' Fuel Shortages Viewed

PM2701111592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT
21 Jan 92

[Report by M. Osokin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Osokin] According to U.S. intelligence officers, our strategic submarines are continuing their patrols and

our ELINT [electronic intelligence] ships are still positioned off the eastern coast of the United States. But all surface warships have been recalled to port. The U.S. military believes that this is happening because of our sailors' low morale and confusion about whose orders they should be following. According to them, the Pacific Fleet has been recalled to Vladivostok and Petropavlovsk and the Baltic Fleet has been recalled to ports near St. Petersburg—a total of 230 capital ships and more than 1,400 smaller warships and support vessels have been called home. As a Pentagon staffer who covers our Navy told THE WASHINGTON POST, no Soviet surface warships are currently to be found anywhere in the world—not any, absolutely none! According to the experts, it's not just a question of the confused situation over the future of the once-unified Armed Forces.

There are more prosaic reasons too. The military—like everyone else—is desperately short of fuel. In order to maintain combat readiness while using as little fuel as possible ships are lying at anchor and have to all intents and purposes stopped carrying out maneuvers. Against this backdrop many Western analysts have been particularly surprised by the intensity of the dispute between Moscow and Kiev over the Black Sea Fleet. As they put it, it's rather absurd given the economic crisis. After all, maintaining heavy cruisers and aircraft carriers will most probably be a luxury neither Ukraine or Russia can afford. Incidentally, other observers believe that thoughts could be turning to selling off some ships, if only for scrap. Ukrainian leaders have already stated that they could export military hardware worth \$2-3 billion a year. But while the leaders of the former Soviet republics are deciding how to divide up the authority to control naval forces, in some areas people are clearly relieved about the thought of getting hard currency for their ships. For instance, the Arkhangelsk Oblast Soviet's Conversion Commission proposed selling abroad a Severodvinsk shipyard nuclear submarine. And, according to the mayor of that city, a trade union delegation of shipbuilding workers, which has been trying to get a meeting with the Russian leadership, is raising—among other issues—the question of profitably selling one of their products for foreign exchange. It is rumored in Severodvinsk that they want to sell a nuclear submarine to the Chinese.

Black Sea Fleet Oath Concerns Still Debated

Postponement Ordered

LD2501185292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] There were a lot of people today at the checkpoint of the October [otryad imeni Oktyabrskogo] training detachment, which is connected with the Black Sea Fleet. Parents, friends, and acquaintances of the young sailors came to Sevastopol to see the sailors take their oaths. However, it became known at the last moment that instructions had come from Moscow not to take the oath today.

Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, briefed journalists at a news conference about this decision made by Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy. He noted that a telegram was received from the Ukrainian minister of defense asking for the swearing of the oath of loyalty to the Commonwealth of Independent States to be postponed.

In reply to questions about the future of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Kasatonov recalled once again the need for a political solution to this issue. He expressed readiness to help Ukraine set up and train its own naval forces.

Servicemen Face House Arrest

PM2701142192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 24 Jan 92 p 3

[Report by lieutenant Colonel N. Astashkin under the "Direct Line" rubric: "More Than 350 Compulsory-Service Servicemen Refused To Swear Allegiance to Ukraine and Moved to North Caucasus District, Where They Were Placed Under 'House Arrest'"]

[Text] Rostov-na-Donu—The people in question want to serve in the Russian Federation. It was explained at the district headquarters that they could send men to military units in the North Caucasus Military District. Sergeants and men are being sent to an assembly point in the settlement of Kovalevka intended for refugees, and are living there without any money or material support. Why is this happening?

"The fact is," Colonel N. Kravchenko, military commander of the Rostov Garrison, said in conversation with me, "that we still do not have the corresponding legislative acts on legal protection for servicemen who are citizens of the Russian Federation and who refuse to swear allegiance to another state. The district's command cannot send them to serve in units of the North Caucasus Military District because that needs a decision of the Commonwealth of Independent States General Staff."

So the sergeants and men arriving from Ukraine face "house arrest" instead of military service.

Commanders Clarify Position

PM2701105392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 24 Jan 92 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Kiev and Carpathian Military District Commanders Explain Their Position: Servicemen Swear Oaths of Allegiance Only Once"]

[Text] Carpathian and Kiev Military Districts—Media commentaries on the fact that commanders of military districts located in the Ukraine have not taken the republic's oath of allegiance have been varied.

Our newspaper, for example, in its news roundup column "The Choice Has Been Made, The Oath Has Been Taken, Next—the All-Ukrainian Officers' Conference" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 January), reported that Colonel General Viktor Skokov, commander of the Carpathian Military District, had not yet made a final decision. This phrase, the commander himself said, caused him bewilderment. This is how he explained his position to our Lvov correspondent V. Bogdanovskiy:

"The reason why I have not sworn an oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people is not because, as the oblast and republic mass media have written, I have not made a choice or through illness. I made my choice a long time ago. I considered, and still consider, that a serviceman swears an oath of loyalty to his fatherland once in his life. He does not have a moral right to do so a second time. It is important to say this also for the reason that no one has released me from my first oath. I continue to truly and faithfully serve the fatherland and the people, including the Ukrainian people."

The same news item reported that Colonel General Viktor Chechevatov, commander of Kiev Military District, did not take part in the oath-taking ceremony for servicemen of the district staff 18 January, because the plane carrying the participants of the All-Army Officers Assembly, which he had been attending, was detained in Moscow owing to bad weather.

Col. Gen. Chechevatov also deemed it necessary to clarify the news roundup column of 21 January on what he felt to be a matter of principle. Here is what he said in conversation with our Kiev correspondent Colonel V. Kaushanskiy:

"Readers might form the impression from the newspaper's report that I failed to take an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people only because on Saturday 18 January my plane was unable to fly from Moscow to Kiev on time owing to bad weather conditions. For some reason the press has assessed the fact of the weather being unsuitable for flying as having virtually fateful significance for me. This is not the case. I want to take this opportunity to make my position public once more. I do not intend to take any military oath of allegiance whatsoever, apart from the one which I have already taken once and for my whole life to the fatherland. This is the heart of the matter. And the flight delay from Moscow, where I was attending the all-Army assembly, is beside the point. If I had wanted to, I could have pledged myself before takeoff or after landing in Kiev. But I did not."

Shipyard in Latvia Ordered Under CIS Authority

LD2501032992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0400 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Admiral Chernavin, deputy Russian defense minister, has ordered that the ship-repair yard in Liepaja will remain under the jurisdiction of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces. Captain 2nd Rank (Mikhankov) has been appointed director of

the enterprise. All the personnel at the yard will also remain citizens of Russia. Liepaja Mayor (Vismins) made the following statement on the issue: I do not have the right to sit down at a negotiation table with emissaries of the defense minister of a foreign state and discuss large-scale problems. He also said that such issues should be discussed by the Latvian and Russian foreign ministers.

Claims to Parts of Fleet Prove 'Infectious'

LD2501034592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Claims to parts of the Fleet have proved to be infectious. Following the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian Fleet—the Caspian flotilla, which could in the future be shared with Azerbaijan—the Baltic Fleet has also become a candidate for immolation. Latvian members of parliament are speaking more and more forcefully about claims to some of the warships. The issue could very well be raised in the very near future.

But that is only a prediction. Today, on the other hand, the Latvian Supreme Soviet passed a decree indicating its desire to expand the Republic's existing frontiers at the expense of Russia, more precisely of Pskov Oblast. The parliament believes that the former Abrenskiy Uyezd—the present town of Pytalova—was annexed illegally by Russia in 1944.

Thus, in summing up the events of recent days it becomes clear that Russia is getting bogged down in territorial problems all around the perimeter of its frontiers. The results of the referendum in South Ossetia; today's decree by the Karelian parliament threatening separation from the Federation; Latvia's claim; and finally, the Crimean appetites of the Russian parliament give food for thought about the way things are going and what the future may bring.

Magadan Naval Base Plans 'Surprise' Staff

OW2401180492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 24 Jan 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Navy's General Staff expressed surprise at reports about plans to set up the Commonwealth's Pacific base in Magadan.

Revealing details, an expert told DP that there were only two diesel submarines stationed in Magadan. One of them was currently in Vladivostok and the other—in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy.

In Magadan itself, there is only one outdated supply ship, the Magadanskiy Komsomolets, which will be

scrapped this year. The base itself represents a pier rented from the local ship-yard.

What is meant here, said a General Staff executive, is a freezing port from which submarines move to other places during the winter. Therefore, no base is going to be set up in Magadan, he said.

'Misunderstanding' Suggested

PM2701163092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Burbyga: "There Will Be No New Naval Base in the Pacific"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA (No. 19) published a report from the POSTFACTUM agency saying that in the very near future it is proposed to create in Magadan a new naval base for the Pacific Fleet in the Asian and Pacific region. Captain Second Rank Andrey Lukyanov, acting chief of the Magadan Garrison, told POSTFACTUM this 22 January.

Captain First Rank Nikolay Vlasov, chief of the Eastern Sector of the Naval Main Staff, told the editorial office that a separate submarine division of the Pacific Fleet is currently stationed in Magadan. It consists of only two submarines and the submarine depot ship Magadanskiy Komsomolets, which is intended to house the submarine crews. Today not a single submarine of the aforesaid complement is in Magadan. The naval command has no plans to extend the basing territory or reinforce the submarine division's complement of forces. On the contrary, we are examining the question of the possibility of writing off the depot ship Magadanskiy Komsomolets for scrap.

As for the quotations from Captain Second Rank A. Lukyanov, acting chief of the Magadan garrison, there was a misunderstanding, according to Vlasov. Lukyanov did indeed meet with a journalist from a local newspaper, and in answer to his question on whether it is planned to eliminate the base, said: "No."

Exclusive Rights for Media Visits Declared

OW2401153792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1352 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Information Department of the Commonwealth's Armed Forces has said it has the exclusive right to organize visits to military units, meetings, conversations and interviews with the Armed Forces' top brass for foreign mass media. The statement came in connection with a report that NEXUS, a news and advertisement agency, was organizing a pool of foreign reporters to visit the Baltic Fleet and some units of the North-Western military group. The trip was to be paid for in U.S. dollars.

The Information Department said the General Command of the Armed Forces did not authorize the trip and the reporters would not be allowed into military units and onto ships even if they did find their way into the North-Western military group or the Baltic Fleet.

Economic

Distribution of Former Union Debt Discussed

PM2701104092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
24 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by economist Igor Pogosov: "In Contrast to its Property, No One Is Rushing to Share and Take On the USSR's Debts"]

[Text] During the years of perestroika the debts of the former Union have increased sevenfold and are in excess of 1 trillion rubles [R].

When a state annually spends more than it receives it accumulates both foreign and internal debts. Recently quite a lot has been spoken and written about the foreign debt of the former USSR. Documents defining the procedure for the extinguishing of the foreign debts by the states which have arisen in place of the former Union have already been elaborated and signed. But as regards the internal debt, neither politicians nor experts have yet tackled this problem in earnest.

From 1986 through 1991 this debt has increased rapidly and by the start of this year, according to preliminary assessments, it was R1,050 billion (including debts from budgets of all levels to banks because of differences in prices for agricultural output). Over the course of last year alone the internal debt rose 70 percent and is now 60 percent of the GNP.

It should be noted that many countries, including successful ones like the United States and France, live with a large internal debt and experience no particular inconvenience as a result. But it all depends on specific conditions. In a stable situation one can live with it, but when the country is disintegrating into 15 states and against the background of inflation, considerable problems arise. The main question is to determine who is responsible, and to what degree, to the creditors, and primarily to the population.

First of all it is necessary to formulate what the state internal debt is and what it consists of. Strictly speaking it is the sum of all loans which the state in the shape of the government has received from the population, enterprises, organizations, and credit institutions and has not paid off by a specific date. The main proportion (90 percent) of the state debt consists of bank loan debts. Deposits total R162 billion. Loans and treasury bills distributed among the population account for a further R25 billion. The state loan floated among banks and enterprises is R50 billion.

Formerly responsibility for the bulk of the debt was borne by the Union government. But now? Russia, as heir to the Union structures? Is that not too much for one republic, even a large one like the Russian Federation? And essentially it would be unfair: Credits were used to finance all republics of the former Union and they must all bear their share of the responsibility. But what share? It is hardly feasible now to determine the size of the debt for each state proceeding from the actual specific sums supplied to a particular republic.

Probably, as for the foreign debt, it will necessary to use general economic indicators as criteria. If you consider any one indicator—the national income produced or consumed or, for instance, the size of the population—then on each occasion the results will vary, favoring now some, now other former union republics. The most rational and fair way would be to distribute the internal debt according to the average of a whole series of socioeconomic indicators. Calculations done in this way provide the following picture.

State Internal Debt (Without Debts of Banks' Liabilities Through Differences in Prices for Agricultural Output)

	billion rubles	as percentage of total
In all about	990.0	100.0
Azerbaijan	18.0	1.8
Armenia	10.7	1.1
Belarus	37.7	3.8
Kazakhstan	50.5	5.1
Kyrgyzstan	10.1	1.0
Moldova	13.0	1.3
Russian Federation	572.0	57.8
Tajikistan	10.2	1.0
Turkmenistan	8.2	0.9
Uzbekistan	43.6	4.4
Ukraine	176.0	17.8
Georgia	17.3	1.8
Baltic States:		
Lithuania	10.5	1.1
Latvia	7.0	0.7
Estonia	4.6	0.4

Of course the suggested methods and results can in no way be regarded as final. They are merely a proposal from specialists. This proposal or other ideas and proposals should be examined by the sovereign states, especially as the practical solution of questions of distributing the internal debt and of responsibility for it is closely connected with the solution of a number of other problems: the ruble area, citizenship rights, and others. If national currencies are introduced new complexities will arise connected in particular with the determination of these currencies' exchange rates against the ruble. But

the fact that the problem of the state debt will not be resolved of its own accord and that it must be resolved as soon as possible is undoubted.

1992 Oil Output Forecast at 460 Million Tonnes

LD2701120692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Russian Government experts predict that this year oil output on the territory of the former USSR will be around 460 million tonnes. However, analysts of the diversified-output firm Germes estimate extraction at only 400-410 million tonnes. If this happens, Russia will be forced to seek resources to import oil from the second half of the current year.

Germes president (Neverov) believes the problem could be solved by putting the oil industry on a joint-stock basis, as its old economic relations have exhausted themselves.

Political & Social

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Past, Georgia

924C0418A Moscow LITERATURNAYA
GAZETA in Russian No 4, 22 Jan 92 p 11

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA observer Yuriy Shchekochikhin on 8 January; place not given: "If Only I Can Make It Through the Day and Survive the Night"]

[Text] [Shchekochikhin] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, you have had a strange destiny in the past year... Voluntary retirement, the post of minister again, retirement again. But what is interesting is that as soon as you cease to hold an official post in the state, immediately—and this is the second time in a year—you end up at the center of attention. I remember well that December day the year before last—it is already more than a year ago—when you uttered the word "dictatorship" from the Kremlin podium. And then—you left. But everyone wished and everyone felt that you would return... Now, judging from your numerous interviews and references to your opinion (in connection with the Tbilisi events, of course), you are returning to big-time politics.

[Shevardnadze] I wish to speak about my resignation since there have been many various assumptions and disputes about it...

[Shchekochikhin] The first, in December 1990, or the second, recent one?

[Shevardnadze] The first. What sorts of feelings do I have about that now? A great deal of bitterness, disenchantment, indignation...

[Shchekochikhin] At whom are you indignant?

[Shevardnadze] Because of what happened after that.

[Shchekochikhin] Your voluntary retirement became an event. Until December before last the country's high leaders were either put on a pension "because of their health" or ousted with a lot of fuss or executed.

[Shevardnadze] It was, I agree, an extraordinary event. For us it was even unprecedented. But remember that this step was taken by a person who would never arrive at such a decision for any reason. And a certain person had to think long and hard about why I did such a thing...

[Shchekochikhin] Who? President Gorbachev?

[Shevardnadze] Both he and others... After all, it was not by accident that I came to the conclusion about the possibility of a dictatorship.

[Shchekochikhin] At that time we were all dying to know if you knew about the forthcoming events (above all—January in Vilnius) or had a premonition of them.

[Shevardnadze] I want to complete my thought... Then, after my resignation, it was necessary to draw conclusions and complete the revolution, which was actually done after the August putsch. This had to be done by both the president and the democratic forces. If these conclusions had been drawn then, we would have had a chance of success?

[Shchekochikhin] Success?

[Shevardnadze] Were it not for the events in the Baltics, there would not have been a putsch in Moscow at the end of March, which subverted the signing of the Novo-Ogarevo agreement...

[Shchekochikhin] But that was impossible at the time! At that time—immediately after your announcement—Gorbachev would have had to demand the resignations of Kryuchkov, Yazov, and Baklanov, eliminate the Central Committee, and ban the CPSU.

[Shevardnadze] At that time, in December 1990, there was still a chance of thwarting the actions of reactionaries. A radical change was necessary. Because in addition to my warning there was other evidence, the signs of the looming dictatorship were too obvious... For the events in the Baltics show that the plans for the coup were being hatched even before these events began... I cannot believe that the storming of the Vilnius television tower was planned by the chief of the Vilnius garrison alone.

[Shchekochikhin] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, it was in those days, in December 1990, during the work of the Congress of People's Deputies that a former KGB agent told me (we met early in the morning, before the beginning of the congress session) that a plan for a coup had been developed: Not in Lithuania but in Latvia—but following the same scenario... I remember how I ran to the Kremlin and began feverishly to look for leaders of the Latvian delegation... At that time they sent a note to Gorbachev. I could not anticipate that subsequently—only a month later—this scenario would be used in

Lithuania... That is, I, one of 2,000 deputies, even then had information about what could happen... And you? You had at that time information which enabled you to state that a dictatorship was coming? Or did you just sense that it was coming?

[Shevardnadze] I wrote some of this in my book... But you cannot talk about everything. And there is much that I cannot discuss even now. But I analyzed the situation that had developed in the country, and above all in the Central Committee. You will remember all those plenums...

[Shchekochikhin] My memory is already vague now...

[Shevardnadze] The 28th CPSU Congress. The whole thing, the atmosphere, the alignment of forces—these were all things that should have alerted us. And the work of the Supreme Soviet? It was so clear that this was not where we were going. And beginning in the summer of 1990 the president was already doing something wrong...

[Shchekochikhin] And did you not make attempts to explain everything to the president? Sit down with him one on one?

[Shevardnadze] We talked... Perhaps not so openly, and not about all the details. But we spoke fairly candidly.

[Shchekochikhin] What did he say?

[Shevardnadze] I told him that, in my opinion, there was deliberate work in progress leading to a serious change in the country's sociopolitical life. When I began to suspect that there was some trouble involving the Baltics, I called him on his car phone.

[Shchekochikhin] On his car phone?

[Shevardnadze] Yes... One time after a sleepless night I was gripped by such anxiety that I could not wait an hour until he arrived at his office. I called him at his home early in the morning and was told: "He has left for work." Then I called him in his car. I said that all these "Baltic versions" which, I felt, were in the air meant a real catastrophe an end to everything... "Is it really possible?"—I said. "After Tbilisi, after all the other well-known events?" Gorbachev answered categorically: "What do you mean! That has been ruled out! What has gotten into you!" Well, perhaps not in those exact words, but that was the idea—it could only be this way, and no other way. And I believed him.

[Shchekochikhin] Are you sure that the events in Lithuania were planned behind Gorbachev's back?

[Shevardnadze] I continue to believe that he did not know.

[Shchekochikhin] As the minister of foreign affairs you frequently had occasion to meet both Yazov and Kryuchkov. In the fall of 1990 did you feel that you belonged to a different team? Or were you still able to

have some influence on them and persuade them? After all, you had an immense amount of prestige both in the world and in the country!

[Shevardnadze] You know, if we take simply your statement, everything was normal. True, I frequently quarreled with Yazov about problems of disarmament—these were fierce quarrels, but that is understandable. He had his views and arguments and I proved others. There were heated discussions, but in this work that was the norm.

I had normal relations with Kryuchkov. We worked together in Afghanistan, together we developed the plan for ending the war, and I cannot but give him his due: He was a worthy partner in this extremely difficult matter.

[Shchekochikhin] But you never spoke to him about why there are so many KGB workers working in Soviet embassies abroad?

[Shevardnadze] That is a different matter. It was not the subject of our discussions.

[Shchekochikhin] That is, this system seemed customary to you?

[Shevardnadze] This is a traditional system, and not just for us. It is a traditional subject of debate in political circles of many countries. Read the books about the CIA. Intelligence is an attribute of the state. As long as there is intelligence there must be a "cover," some kind of concealment. What kind? This is what the debate is all about. I know that in some of our embassies there was an excessive number of "close" and "distant neighbors"—30 percent and more. This seemed abnormal to me. Especially the way this affects diplomacy and the atmosphere in our representative agencies. It is also a problem of information, which frequently gives a distorted picture. A problem of influencing state minds and manipulating them, which I actually corroborated before the August putsch.

But I did not manage to raise this issue. I intended to but I did not get a chance. I even wanted to speak openly about this subject with Baker.

[Shchekochikhin] With Baker?

[Shevardnadze] Yes. I wanted to tell him: "You know all our intelligence agents and we know yours. It does not take a lot of intelligence to tell who is a diplomat and who is an intelligence agent: Just observe how they live and how they work. Since we have changed over to different relations, let us agree on different principles." That is, I preferred to introduce clarity into this issue. And now, you see, Bakatin has turned over to the Americans all the blueprints for the distribution of the listening devices in the building being constructed for the American embassy.

[Shchekochikhin] Do you think this was the right thing to do?

[Shevardnadze] He consulted with me.

[Shchekochikhin] Now, because of the fact that Bakatin has disclosed the whole system for eavesdropping in the American embassy, there is a wild scandal about a huge state secret being given away.

[Shevardnadze] What secret! That is just stupid. When the Americans raised a fuss about this building, we also began to check the building of our embassy in Washington and found whole suitcases full of equipment there. That was while Schultz was still in office... And when Schultz registered complaints I told him: Let me give the order and tomorrow we will arrange an exhibit of all the devices you have built in. And you can set up the same kind of exhibit.

[Shchekochikhin] What did Schultz say?

[Shevardnadze] He denied it. He said that we were ahead of them "in this area." It turns out that we worked very skillfully.

[Shchekochikhin] Did you know that the American embassy building in Moscow was riddled with various kinds of our equipment?

[Shevardnadze] When the scandal broke out I asked the KGB chairman...

[Shchekochikhin] Kryuchkov?

[Shevardnadze] No, it was Chebrikov at that time. I said to him: "Viktor Mikhaylovich, I beg of you—after all, we are colleagues, we work together—tell me for my personal information: Is there anything there or not? If there is nothing there I will act more boldly, and if there is, well, we will look for a way out."

[Shchekochikhin] And what did Chebrikov say?

[Shevardnadze] He denied it: "No. Categorically no!"

[Shchekochikhin] That is to say that even you, not only a minister but also a member of the Politburo, knew nothing about it?

[Shevardnadze] No. I was told, remember, by that same Chebrikov that they had reported it to the general secretary and it was decided not to do anything like that. And then—the Americans discovered...

[Shchekochikhin] A terrifying story, Eduard Amvrosiyevich! You sit next to a person, you work together, you become friends, one might say, and he lies to you—and without even batting an eye...

[Shevardnadze] The so-called "conspirators' ethic." Some "higher" interest that is concealed from the high leaders. What I called the shadow power. It has nothing to do with ethics.

I think Bakatin took the right step. In my day I called for greater openness to cooperation in intelligence and reduction of the ideological component in their activity.

Yes, intelligence means secrets, mysteries, but there are limits beyond which "professional problems" grow into political ones, which threaten to undermine interstate relations and that same national security for whose sake intelligence exists. Take Sweden—we have excellent relations with Sweden, but so many times they have been clouded by excessive activity on the part of the secret service. Or take England. One time after a regular dispatch this almost reached the point of a rupture. Then Thatcher intervened, and after that, Gorbachev, and I had to get in on it too. It took us two years to get rid of these problems. And that is why I think that in this area we should change over to new relations.

[Shchekochikhin] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, let me return again to your December resignation. I recall Gorbachev's face when you announced that... I was sitting in the hall of the congress and you were standing with your back to him. And I knew that your announcement was a surprise to him.

[Shevardnadze] He did not expect it at that time. Although I had attempted to resign before that.

[Shchekochikhin] When?

[Shevardnadze] On 26 December 1989 when the Congress of People's Deputies was considering the question of the events in Tbilisi.

[Shchekochikhin] I recall that you too, like all the Georgian deputies, left the hall when Katusev spoke.

[Shevardnadze] One-third of the people in the hall, if not more, left. After Katusev's speech I felt I had to resign since we had an agreement: to listen to Sobchak's report and not open discussions. Suddenly the floor was turned over to the procurator, and it was all a pack of lies. When I spoke in Tbilisi I gave my word: "We will do everything possible to restore the truth." And I must say that Sobchak's commission established the truth.

[Shchekochikhin] Yes, but still nobody was punished for what happened in Tbilisi. The procurator's viewpoint prevailed.

Tell me, Eduard Amvrosiyevich, when you announced your resignation did you feel some kind of vacuum around yourself?

[Shevardnadze] Well, there was something, of course. But that, unfortunately, is natural. And not just in our society. That is the way the world is arranged. But there was something else as well. My friends and coworkers parted company with me.

[Shchekochikhin] Did your Western colleagues telephone you?

[Shevardnadze] They did—and not just those from the West. Almost all of them... They called and sent letters and telegrams, thousands of letters, I have a whole archive. Letters came from all parts of our country.

Basically they were asking me to stay. I stayed about 20 days longer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Shchekochikhin] Did you see Gorbachev after your resignation?

[Shevardnadze] Yes, we had meetings... Indeed, our friendship was intact and it still is.

[Shchekochikhin] Would you call your relations a personal friendship? Or are they still relations between two politicians?

[Shevardnadze] Both. We were like-thinkers and there was a lot that brought us together on the personal plane.

[Shchekochikhin] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, I still cannot understand why you lost? You and Yakovlev and Bakatin and, as we can already see, Gorbachev. When we spoke with Mikhail Sergeyevich I suggested that the reason was perhaps historical, a failure not of people, of individuals, but of the liberal generation of the sixties. Why at that time, a year ago, did the "mediocrities" begin to win? After all, you had the intellect, the energy, the will! What happened, anyway?

[Shevardnadze] In the first place, we made a series of mistakes. But that is natural. In what we were starting it would have been hard not to make mistakes and miscalculations. We saw certain contours ahead and had a sense of where we had to go. But society was not ready and we were not ready and the party was not ready. I recall that as early as '87 we were discussing some issue in the Politburo and there "socialist pluralism" was mentioned for the first time. Many of my colleagues in the Politburo objected: "What is this pluralism? That is the last thing we need!" And a year and a half later we began to learn to use this word, we began to speak not simply about "socialist pluralism" but about pluralism in general, and then Article 6 disappeared. But that was later. But at this time only two or three people in the Politburo perceived this as normal and all the rest of them considered it inadmissible... So everything was as it was interpreted by the "higher echelon."

[Shchekochikhin] Perhaps the whole problem was that there were not enough of you there, in the upper echelons.

[Shevardnadze] Yes, that probably had something to do with it. And there were also mistakes. We probably should have taken advantage of Gorbachev's high rating, especially during the first years of perestroika, and also the mechanism of the command-administrative system.

[Shchekochikhin] That is?

[Shevardnadze] It would have been possible to force the old system to operate in a new way. To use it to greater effect—until the new one started to work.

[Shchekochikhin] What if Gorbachev had supported Yeltsin during those years? After all, the Yeltsin factor

had a very strong effect on the political life of the country, at least during the past four years. How would events have developed?

[Shevardnadze] You know what... Take Boris Nikolayevich's speech at the Central Committee plenum when he voiced his complaints against Gorbachev. What was that about? About glorification, about Gorbachev's style of work. There were complaints about the rates of perestroika, but the principles were not questioned. Therefore I cannot say now that we should have gone "with Gorbachev" or "with Yeltsin"...

[Shchekochikhin] But everyone could see the difference between Gorbachev and Yeltsin, and it was not political but personal...

[Shevardnadze] Yes, both of them were devoted to reform. True, Boris Nikolayevich was more radical and more resolute. But that was not so noticeable at the time.

[Shchekochikhin] But can it be that nobody understood that as soon as the official badgering of Yeltsin began, he grew in public opinion head and shoulders over those who were badgering him or those who had organized this badgering? For all the anonymous "letters from workers" had the opposite effect.

[Shevardnadze] When Yeltsin gave his first speech at the plenum we considered it necessary to react to him. The reaction was fairly sharp, including my speech and Yakovlev's... Before the plenum there was no noticeable tension between Yeltsin and Gorbachev, but after that this battle had begun. If I am not exaggerating.

[Shchekochikhin] It was a battle, of course.

[Shevardnadze] Why did we speak out at that time? Because we thought that to raise doubts about Gorbachev's work at that time would mean to raise doubts about perestroika. Far from everyone in society was ready to follow the path of perestroika, and therefore it was very important for members of the Central Committee and the party and the people to believe in Gorbachev. Then came the battle.

[Shchekochikhin] With mistakes made in this battle by the stronger as compared to the weaker—in terms of position...

[Shevardnadze] Why were mistakes made in the first place? Because when you debate with an opponent you must take all factors into account, including how the people who are observing this discourse feel about it. Yes, that is right, but we did not have even an elementary idea of the rules and norms of political battle in a civilized society. Resolute measures—yes. If the general secretary said it, then it was the law. If you were forced out of the Politburo, it was all over. That is how everyone had been trained, and that is what ruled us.

[Shchekochikhin] That is, the battle was not thought out, not planned?

[Shevardnadze] It was spontaneous. Boris Nikolayevich would say something and Mikhail Sergeyevich would react. It went on and on...

[Shchekochikhin] Did you try to reconcile them?

[Shevardnadze] Well, to reconcile—that would have been difficult. How do you reconcile them? It was later, after a certain amount of time, that we discovered they had gone too far, but at first we did not attach much importance to it.

[Shchekochikhin] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, one question has been on my mind for a long time... In your public statements, unlike those of Gorbachev, there was never a word about the "socialist option" or "fidelity to the socialist path of development." Do you not accept the socialist path of development or was all this verbal tight-rope walking not required for your sphere of activity?

[Shevardnadze] Indeed, in recent years I have not spoken about socialism or the socialist path. I have had my doubts, but I have not emphasized them. Serious doubts...

[Shchekochikhin] And, in your opinion, is Gorbachev repeating these words sincerely even now?

[Shevardnadze] In my opinion, he is sincere. We have spoken about this a great deal. We have traveled a lot together, by car and plane. At night, when all the work was done, we would talk about socialism and its future. I would reflect aloud: "Imagine that we had a large, enormous party and there were all different kinds of people in it. Some held relatively leftist views while others were fairly conservative. We would need a two-party system. And we initiated perestroika, and here we would be pioneers..."

[Shchekochikhin] Well, what would Mikhail Sergeyevich say?

[Shevardnadze] I got the impression that he was inclined to take the social democratic path. He spoke of serious doubts about those party congresses at which the historic split with the social democrats took place. He even considered this a tragic mistake. But I think it was very difficult for him to speak of this openly.

[Shchekochikhin] The campaigns against you—did they come from below or above?

[Shevardnadze] I think they came from above.

[Shchekochikhin] From the military or the military-industrial complex or the marshals or Polozkov?...

[Shevardnadze] I do not think they came from Polozkov.

[Shchekochikhin] But not from Gorbachev?

[Shevardnadze] No, now I rule that out. Although there was a time... But even now it remains a mystery to me why he showed such passivity. He knew that in certain

questions I was right, 100 percent right, but—he remained silent. I asked myself: A minister, a close adviser, a like-thinker, and a devoted friend is trampled upon and persecuted—why not defend him? After all, the same thing happened to Yakovlev and to others as well... The president should have protected us. Not us so much as our cause. And what happened. They got rid of us and joined up with him.

[Shchekochikhin] Tell me, why did everything fall apart so quickly? First, like a house of cards, all of socialist Europe. In two months, as I recall. And then, just as quickly, the whole Soviet Union. The whole world exclaimed over the fact that no other empire had collapsed so quickly.

[Shevardnadze] I think the reasons like at the basis of our system. It was artificially imposed on the peoples by force. It could not exist for long, and therefore it fell. As soon as the USSR assumed normal, relatively civilized positions, the system immediately collapsed. And it is good that it did.

[Shchekochikhin] Of course it is good...

[Shevardnadze] And it is good that it happened during our generation. Otherwise we would have been tormented by our conscience because everything had been held together by force for so long.

[Shchekochikhin] How long could Eastern Europe have been held together by force? A year, two, five, 10?

[Shevardnadze] Ten—I do not know, but several years longer. But at what price? There would have been tragedies, terrible tragedies, bloodletting...

[Shchekochikhin] Well, and our Union? I think that a year ago even you would hardly have thought that at the beginning of '92 nothing would be left of it.

[Shevardnadze] In principle, I thought about a fundamental transformation of the Union. I thought we would arrive at a commonwealth, but—a real commonwealth. Real equality, real integration, reasonable cooperation in all areas. It makes no difference what it is called—union, confederation, or commonwealth.

[Shchekochikhin] But with a center?

[Shevardnadze] Yes, with a center. With a coordination center. In the area of foreign policy it is simply necessary, as it is in the military-political and economic spheres. I thought that we would arrive at such a system, but I envisioned that process as being smoother, gentler, and proceeding in stages.

[Shchekochikhin] But everything turned out differently...

[Shevardnadze] Yes, differently. In a month we have leaped from one condition to a completely different one, and this is why the establishment of the Commonwealth is proceeding so painfully now.

[Shchekochikhin] How do you feel about the fact that the new states (with the exception of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan) are headed by people who previously were united only by the CPSU Central Committee?

[Shevardnadze] That is understandable. We are speaking about new formations, but people have not yet managed to grow into them. So it turns out that whether you like it or not, the most prepared people in government are those who have been through the party school. Even certain American businessmen have told me that they prefer to deal with the old cadres—they produce less confusion.

[Shchekochikhin] Tell me, a year ago when you loudly pronounced the word "dictatorship" did you have in mind a dictatorship of totalitarianism and not a dictatorship of a democratically elected president such as they had in Georgia? One cannot say of Gamsakhurdia that he is a representative of a totalitarian regime.

[Shevardnadze] He put a totalitarian regime in place. He deceived the people. He disguised himself, he is no democrat. He is an ordinary despot with the potential for being a dictator who pushed his way into power using populist slogans. Now we hear about calls for a march on Tbilisi, which essentially means a civil war. If these reports are true, this is a catastrophe, the death of Georgia.

[Shchekochikhin] But here is the question. No, I personally do not like him, but he is a legally elected president. On the one hand, he is a dictator; on the other, he was overthrown by a putsch. How do we figure all this out?...

[Shevardnadze] I do not consider that a putsch. I do not know what will happen next, but still we must give Georgian society its due and say that it has figured all this out very quickly. Not all, but the leading part of society got it bearings quickly. It is not true that the military staged this revolution.

[Shchekochikhin] Nobody says that it was the military.

[Shevardnadze] No, it was an uprising of democratically inclined people, youth, and intelligentsia.

[Shchekochikhin] Have you ever met with Gamsakhurdia personally?

[Shevardnadze] I have had very little contact with him. I knew his father well, we used to have very interesting conversations and meetings, I have kept his letters...

[Shchekochikhin] Why was your name number one on Gamsakhurdia's list of enemies of Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] I do not know. I have never quarreled with him. And every time he speaks he never misses an opportunity to say something insulting about me. But I have never reacted to them. I have never had a desire to have my speeches further complicate the already complicated situation in Georgia.

[Shchekochikhin] And the opposition? Have they met with you?

[Shevardnadze] Recently—yes. When they opened fire on the demonstrators on 2 September, I was finally convinced that a person with dictatorial ways had come to power in Georgia. And not only dictatorial ways but with dictatorial skills as well. Then I met with representatives of the opposition. My friends came to see me, well-known writers, actors, and movie directors. And who impressed me were the young people. I met young people 23-24 years of age who had an excellent understanding of politics...

But let me mention that I did not meet just with the opposition. I did not refuse to meet and speak even with those of my countrymen who were hostile to me.

[Shchekochikhin] You were rarely in Tbilisi after you moved to Moscow.

[Shevardnadze] True. I was there only after the events in April.

[Shchekochikhin] You did not make a special point of going there?

[Shevardnadze] I did not have time. Moreover, I was always oppressed by the atmosphere which was hostile to me. It was difficult...

[Shchekochikhin] I heard that a couple of days ago you had meetings with the official leaders of the opposition.

[Shevardnadze] I had contacts. I have spoken on the telephone a couple of times with Sigua. I had a very interesting conversation with Jaba Ioseliani. With a lot of people...

[Shchekochikhin] Can you picture yourself living in Tbilisi? In the future? Or do you not think about that?

[Shevardnadze] No. I do not know how my fate will turn out or how I will participate in the process of the establishment of a new Georgia. It is a matter of time, and everything depends on the people, on the individuals who have come now.

[Shchekochikhin] I have heard that they are calling you there.

[Shevardnadze] Many are calling, many are waiting, and many do not want me to come back, and that, alas, is predictable. The propaganda has done its work. After all, I was a communist leader for almost 15 years. There is a certain amount of indignation, certain suspicions. Much needs to be clarified.

[Shchekochikhin] Tell me, have you seen Gorbachev since his resignation?

[Shevardnadze] No, I have not met with him, but we have spoken several times on the telephone. A couple of days ago he called and wanted to know about things in Tbilisi.

[Shchekochikhin] And Yeltsin?

[Shevardnadze] With Yeltsin—not since my departure from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But before I resigned I had a lengthy and very detailed and interesting conversation with him.

[Shchekochikhin] Upon your second return to the post of minister...did you feel that it was temporary?

[Shevardnadze] In principle, yes. My second stay in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs lasted for 29 days. But I am still glad I agreed. Of course, it would have been better if this offer had been made to me right after the August putsch. Perhaps I could have done something. Something more important, more significant.

[Shchekochikhin] I have the feeling that you will still return to active politics.

[Shevardnadze] I have not given it up even now. But if I return... Georgia and Georgian affairs will be very important. This is not so clear now, but after a certain amount of time, by the year 2000, the geopolitical situation itself will be different and Georgia will be very important. Not only to Transcaucasia but also to the entire region, including the Northern Caucasus and beyond—the Balkans, the Near and Middle East. Therefore now, before it is too late, we must begin to construct a democratic state—one that can be included in the general European process. Now Georgia has ended up in isolation, and that is the whole problem...

[Shchekochikhin] Do you think the new Georgia will be a part of the Commonwealth?

[Shevardnadze] If we want to be included in the general European process we cannot isolate ourselves from the Commonwealth. I regard the Commonwealth as an important constituent part of Greater Europe—from the Atlantic to Vladivostok. Ultimately everyone will come to the common Eurasian space.

In order for Georgia to get out of the isolation in which it has found itself, it must change over to different standards of politics—world standards.

[Shchekochikhin] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, December before last you turned out to be, alas, a remarkable prophet when you predicted the events for the entire subsequent year. But what awaits us now?

[Shevardnadze] By the end of '92 things will be better. If we can hold out for a couple of months. The next four or five months will be the most difficult—winter and the beginning of spring. We must endure.

Settling of Territorial Scores 'Road To War'

PM2701163392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
25 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 3

["Editorial Office Viewpoint": "Redrawing Borders Is Road to War"]

[Text] The degree to which states, as well as people, are civilized is verified not by lofty declarations but by the way they act in conflict situations. To all appearances, the Commonwealth countries will have to take many such tests in the very near future, and the first and hardest of them will evidently be the problem of the borders among the former components of the USSR.

"I am offended on behalf of the power!"—it is staggering how many people share this idea, and in a strange, distorted form. You are not offended if your people and your country are doomed to poverty and a degrading lack of freedom, you are not offended if your motherland is left outside world progress. You are not even offended if your totally innocent compatriots die. But if the state which you consider your own diminishes a little in size—even by an oblast, even by two tiny islands—this can no longer be endured. Such ideas, to all appearances, are the inevitable result of decades of living under conditions of totalitarianism and regular state "brain-washing."

But the problem of the borders really exists. Did not Khrushchev act in an absurd way by suddenly "presenting" the Crimea to the Ukraine on the spur of the moment in 1954? Were the Bolsheviks guided by fairness or even common sense when they drew the borders in the Caucasus, let us say, or in other parts of the vast country which they considered "eternally indivisible"? Those decisions, most frequently arbitrary and very frequently absurd, have become veritable mines placed not only under the Commonwealth of Independent States but also under peaceful life on its territory.

Does this mean that we are doomed to continue traveling a road that has been mined? Yes, if we succumb to irresponsible appeals to "accept any political costs" when seeking concessions from republics which in the recent past were "fraternal." It would not be a bad thing for those who are now raising the problem of the Crimea to the height of a fateful question to remember Kaliningrad (Koenigsberg), the "northern territories," Vyborg, and other regions to which others might make territorial claims not entirely groundlessly. It is no coincidence that politicians who have suffered defeats before, who lost the voters' trust and are now trying to make a new "career" become the ringleaders of campaigns for the revision of borders. Others who follow them evidently simply do not understand the consequences involved. It is absurd to reckon that the other side, whose interests will be affected by a redrawing of borders, will capitulate without the fiercest resistance. In the final analysis, a settling of territorial scores, if not curbed, will lead inevitably to war.

Even under "cold war" conditions the international community managed to work out the only possible approach to the borders problem, formulated in the Helsinki documents. Good or bad, the historically established borders must be recognized and—as the norm—be considered immutable. Changes to borders are only possible on the basis of the voluntary consent of all the

interested sides, by means of negotiations, without strong-arm pressure or threats. The other, alternative path is the very road that Yugoslavia is taking—a terrible one. There simply is no third path.

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 28 January

LD2801080992 Moscow TASS in English
0539 GMT 28 Jan 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—Today's newspapers comment on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's interview with the ABC television network on Saturday [25 January]. The newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA frontpages his statement "we want to change our military doctrine and no longer regard the United States as our potential adversary".

He said Russia-controlled strategic ballistic missiles will not be aimed against the United States any more.

The United States may soon respond to the move with considerable changes in its strategic planning, newspaper observer Aleksandr Golts said.

The world is witnessing the change in the military strategy, which was based on military confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States for the last four decades, the newspaper said.

The economic situation in Russia is critical but not hopeless, Russian Vice Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said.

In an interview with the newspaper TRUD, Gaydar stressed that it may take at least six months to overcome negative tendencies in the economy. He said the Russian Government will not change its course, adding that "there is no serious disagreement on the reform strategy in the government".

The newspaper PRAVDA publishes an article by economic analyst Viktor Tomashkevich, in which he said that "a sharp and hasty step towards free prices is impossible because of objective inertness of any economy, let alone ours. Its structure is overburdened with unnaturally balanced resource-consuming industries".

"We should slow down and put our economic mechanism in the 'decompression chamber' immediately to begin an ascension," the newspaper said.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT GAZETTE) carries an interview of British Prime Minister John Major with the newspaper editor-in-chief, Vitaliy Tretyakov.

Major said he accepts Russia as the continuing state of the Soviet Union and expressed confidence it will fulfill its international obligations in order not to harm or destabilise its relations with the rest of the world.

Major described the Commonwealth of Independent States as a vital framework in which the states of the former Soviet Union can negotiate and agree their new relationships with one another as independent states.

The newspaper PRAVDA publishes an article by military writer Vasily Izgaryshev about the Armed Forces in the Baltic Republics.

He said they live "like under siege".

Valeriy Mironov, commander of the former Soviet troops in the Baltic Republics, described the current situation in the republics as "unbearable". He said the Baltic military district has been reorganised into a group of troops, which have neither status nor any guarantees of legal or social protection.

Russian Ambassador to the European Community Iván Silayev said in an interview with the newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA that "500 million ecu, which the European Community agreed to allocate for food programme, and another 400 million ecu [European currency unit] for technical assistance is a life belt for Russia".

He stressed that "macroeconomic reform will fail" without Russia's integration into the world economy.

Newspapers also comment on the Middle East peace talks in Moscow.

PRAVDA said the absence of representatives of Iraq, Iran and Libya will have a negative impact on the negotiation process. Its observer Yuriy Glukhov believes this is a diplomatic move made by the United States to put these countries in international isolation.

Russian foreign minister said Russia is trying to play "a role of honest broker" in settling the Middle East conflict, the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA said, adding that the talks have little chances for success.

International Affairs**'Serious Causes' Linked With Yeltsin Absence**

PM2701220992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jan 92 p 1

[M. Chikin report: "The President Is Not in the Kremlin. Where Is He?"]

[Text] Yesterday morning the Russian president had a meeting scheduled with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe. But the meeting did not take place. We were told at the Japanese Embassy's information department that they had received a note notifying them that the president was not in Moscow and that the meeting was being postponed. Watanabe's visit is to finish 28 January, and agreement on the meeting had been reached by a corresponding note in good time, 17 January. Back on 26 January Watanabe stated to journalists: "I can only conclude that something unforeseen has happened." Koichi Kato, speaker of the Japanese Government [as published], yesterday said that he does not know whether health problems or political motives lie behind the cancellation of the meeting.

We asked Pavel Voshchanov, the president's press secretary, to explain the situation. What is the matter with Yeltsin?

[Voshchanov] He is alive and well, and feels fine. He is not in the capital. We will make an official statement on this subject in the afternoon of 28 January.

[Chikin] Where did the president spend the weekend?

[Voshchanov] At work. Both Saturday and Sunday.

[Chikin] Did the tennis match with Samaranch take place?

[Voshchanov] No. The president of the International Olympic Committee declined after his long flight.

[Chikin] All the same, is the president's absence connected with any serious causes?

[Voshchanov] Yes, it is. Wait for the announcement. A working schedule for 29 January has already been prepared. In the morning there will be a meeting with Watanabe, at 1130 a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Baker, and at 1500 an interview with the BBC.

[Chikin] Will the president attend the opening of the meeting on the Near East settlement?

[Voshchanov] No. [Voshchanov ends]

P.S. On the Tokyo stock exchange the exchange rate of the dollar at once shot up against the German mark. [Chikin ends]

We have learned from reliable sources that B. Yeltsin is staying at his dacha in the Moscow area and is preparing for the Russian-U.S. meeting.

Reported in Novorossiysk

LD2801084992 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 0814 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Novorossiysk, 28 Jan (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Novorossiysk overnight, according to unofficial reports today.

Warships, among them the cruiser "Moskva," are drawn up outside Novorossiysk port, where a meeting with the Black Sea Fleet leadership will take place in the next hour or two. Pavel Voshchanov, the Russian president's press secretary, neither confirmed nor denied the report in a telephone conversation with TASS. He announced that an official statement on this subject will be published this afternoon.

A large group of officers of the Black Sea Fleet, which bears the decoration of the red flag, is in Novorossiysk, headed by Fleet Commander Admiral Igor Kasatonov. Georgiy Khobotov, head of the city administration, told journalists that the arrival is not connected with the Black Sea Fleet's division. He categorically denied rumors that the Black Sea Fleet's base is being switched to Novorossiysk. On the contrary, an understanding has been reached on lands belonging to the military in one of the city's residential districts being used for further building development. The administration head said that he asked the admiral the question bothering many Novorossiysk residents: "Will the Black Sea Fleet be moved from Sevastopol to Novorossiysk?" "No, we are not preparing to do that," was the reply.

Further on Novorossiysk Visit

LD2801125592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin
Network in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] As has become known, Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Novorossiysk last night. A report by Pavel Voshchanov, press secretary of the Russian president, has been issued. It says:

In connection with numerous requests from the mass media concerning the aims and the itinerary of the latest working visit by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, I am authorized to state the following:

The president of the Russian Federation is with the Black Sea Fleet. This visit is being made within the framework of preparations for the forthcoming session of the UN Security Council and also in connection with the meetings with U.S. President George Bush, Great Britain's Prime Minister John Major, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and heads of other states, during which Yeltsin intends to discuss problems of nuclear security, as agreed with other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS].

At present, Boris Yeltsin is on board the cruiser Moskva. He is looking over its technical equipment and talking to the crew. The president is accompanied on his visit to

the Black Sea Fleet by Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS strategic armed forces.

Kozyrev, Baker Consider Arms, Near East

LD2701194192 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1855 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Report by TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan (TASS)—The forthcoming Moscow meeting to organize multilateral talks on the Near East and nuclear disarmament issues were at the center of attention of talks held today between Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's foreign minister, and James Baker, U.S. secretary of state. Tomorrow they will be co-chairmen of a meeting in which foreign ministers from several countries will participate.

"We have endeavored to find solutions" to the existing problems on the eve of the meeting on the Near East and "I think we are on the right road," stated the Russian minister. He was laconic regarding the results of the discussion on disarmament problems, having emphasized that much would become known from the coming speeches of the Russian and U.S. Presidents and, in particular, from the forthcoming traditional "State of the Union" speech by George Bush.

Andrey Kozyrev took the opportunity to thank his American colleague, in front of journalists, for the assistance his country was currently providing for Russia. Speaking, in particular, of the recent Washington-held international meeting to coordinate assistance for Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] countries, he noted that "an international plan of assistance for us to implement the reforms has gotten off the ground."

The U.S. secretary of state said that in his view "dramatic and remarkable events, not only in the political sphere, but also in the economy and in the sphere of security" were taking place in Russia.

Nuclear Initiatives Discussed

OW2801000192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1915 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The president of Russia and the United States will come out with nuclear disarmament initiatives shortly. The Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker were speaking at a brief joint news conference following two hours of talks.

Andrey Kozyrev said that "we won't have wait long for the initiatives to be made public, that will happen when Boris Yeltsin and George Bush meet at the UN Security Council Session on January 31 and at Camp David on February 1".

Andrey Kozyrev and James Baker told the news conference they had discussed bilateral relations, preparations for the Russian-U.S. summit and the results of the international conference in Washington on humanitarian aid to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries, which was held in Washington on January 22 and 23.

Asked about the reasons why President Yeltsin canceled his meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister Michio Watanabe, Andrey Kozyrev said that the Russian president devoted two days - Monday [27 January] and Tuesday [28 January] - to the forthcoming trip to Britain, the United States and Canada. The Russian foreign minister said that at the moment President Yeltsin was in his country residence.

Kozyrev, Watanabe Discuss Yeltsin, Mideast

LD2701222792 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sergey Dorenko] Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Watanabe agreed today on the time frame for continuing talks to conclude a peace treaty between Russia and Japan. During the talks the Japanese announced that they would like to provide aid primarily to the Far Eastern and Siberian regions of Russia.

[V. Vinogradov] The director of the Information Directorate of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a briefing on the results of the Moscow talks of Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Watanabe. Today he met with Andrey Kozyrev; Fedorov, governor of Sakhalin; and with the delegations from Jordan, Israel, and Egypt today to the multi-party meeting on the Near East. It is possible, from the content of the talks, to draw the conclusion that Japan, having gained a secure position in the Far East and Southeast Asia, is intent on also playing a weighty role in the Near East.

At the current conference, Japan is part of the organizational and working group and is even trying to influence the participants in the talks. Japan does not accept the principle of land in exchange for land [as heard] and hopes that Israel will conduct a more realistic and flexible policy. Japan favors the creation of a state of Palestine. The Israeli ambassador was told this. A report of humanitarian aid to Israel in the form of training for engineers and farmers came as news.

There were also comments in connection with Boris Yeltsin's refusal to meet with Foreign Affairs Minister Watanabe. In the opinion of the Japanese side, this might show that the Russian president does not attach due attention to the Far East, especially since the intention was to discuss the problem of the Northern Territories and a forthcoming visit to Japan.

Although at the last minute Andrey Koryrev did suggest a meeting with the president, it does not fit into the schedule for the Japanese foreign affairs minister's stay and for this reason will not take place. Nonetheless, Japan has brought \$50 million in the form of humanitarian aid via the Red Cross, allocated following the New York conference which discussed the matter of aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

North Atlantic Assembly To Discuss Membership

OW2401150592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1352 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Bolshakov, deputy head of the parliamentary Defense and Security Committee, has told IF [INTERFAX] that in the first half of February the North Atlantic Assembly will officially discuss associate membership for Russia.

Mr. Bolshakov, who recently headed Russia's delegation during an official visit to the NATO headquarters in Brussels for talks with NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner and North Atlantic Assembly Secretary-General Peter Corterier, said that the parties had agreed Russia's associate membership in the Assembly would be discussed at its next session, due in Canada in March. They had also agreed to hold an international conference on conversion in Moscow this coming summer, which would involve prominent experts and firms from the West.

The Russian delegation discussed establishing information exchanges with NATO, for which purpose the latter would set up its information center on the Russian Federation's territory. "We are ready for that. Now it's the NATO leadership's turn to have its final say on the matter," Mr. Bolshakov said.

No Political Ties Planned With Taiwan

LD2701171592 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 27 January (TASS)—Russia does not intend to establish political relations with Taiwan, a representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated here today. "Russia regards Taiwan as an integral part of China, as one of its provinces," he noted at a news conference by the Russian delegation to the Moscow organizational meeting on the Middle East.

The Foreign Ministry representative made this statement in connection with reports regarding the visit to Moscow by a Taiwan delegation which alleges that it came here to establish official contacts with Russia and to purchase arms and military equipment.

The representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied these reports. "There is no question of any talks on the sale of arms and military equipment to

Taiwan. No meetings are being held in Russian official establishments with Taiwan," he stressed.

In his words, (Chang Hsiao-an), vice president of the National Industry Commission of Taiwan, who has been in Moscow since 24 January, came here at the invitation of the firm "Eilen Trading International," which is a joint enterprise registered abroad. The aim of this trip was talks with the firm's representatives about the development of business ties with Taiwan.

The representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also reported that the ministry has nothing whatsoever to do with organizing the Taiwan delegation's arrival in Moscow.

Khabarovsk Authorities Receive Japanese Aid

LD2701124792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1132 GMT 27 Jan 92

[From the "External Economic Relations" section]

[Text] The Japanese Government is planning to send 10 bln [billion] yen worth of humanitarian aid to the Far East.

According to the sources, close to the regional administration, a lot of food stuffs and medical equipment worth totally 10 bln yen (about 80 mln dollars) was delivered to Khabarovsk from Tokyo by the Japanese Government delegation on January 27.

The assistant to the head of the Khabarovsk regional administration responsible for international relations Boris Vdovin told PF [POSTFACTUM] that on January 28 negotiations are to start between the government delegation in Tokyo and the deputy head of the Khabarovsk regional administration Lyudmila Strelkova about the possibility of shipping a big batch of food stuffs and medical equipment from Japan to Khabarovsk by way of humanitarian aid. B. Vdovin refused to confirm the data relating to the expected value of the humanitarian aid saying that it had not yet been shipped and the date of its arrival was not known.

According to some local entrepreneurs, the Khabarovsk regional administration is incapable of accepting and efficiently distributing such a big batch of commodities. Nonetheless, it is not going to ask the regional commercial structures of other mediators for help. The entrepreneurs believe that the Japanese Government has allocated such a big sum following the decision of the big seven to ship generous humanitarian aid to the CIS countries and in this way the Japanese Government is going to outstrip the major world powers in mastering the markets of the Far East.

U.S.-Japanese Consortium Wins Oil-Gas Project

OW2801131092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1056 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar has signed a document giving the right to develop Sakhalin off-shore oil and gas deposits to the Three "M"'s consortium uniting McDermott (USA), Marathon (USA) and Mitsui (Japan). This was announced by the General director of the Sakhalin oil and gas company Anatoliy Cherniy. There is a possibility that Mobil (USA) will also join the project.

The governor of Sakhalin Valentin Fyodorov announced last Saturday that he is leaving the government commission in charge of the project. In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] he said that he disagrees with the decision of the commission "ignoring the interests of Sakhalin region".

The Sakhalin contest declared in spring 1991 also attracted such American companies as Amoco and Exxon, the Japanese Sodeco, Sodec, Idemitsu, the South Korean Hyundai, the Australian VNR and the Dutch Shell.

Science Adviser Ends Visit to Seoul

LD2701074892 Moscow TASS in English 1129 GMT
26 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul January 26 TASS—South Korea has shown much interest in Russian researchers' achievements in the field of fundamental sciences and expressed an intention to develop scientific and technological exchanges with Russia, Nikolay Malyshev, the Russian Federation's state counsellor on science and higher school affairs, told TASS. Today he completed an unofficial visit to Seoul at the invitation of Pak Chung-kyu, president of the South Korean Kyongnam University.

The former Soviet Union had signed several programmes with the Republic of Korea in the field of science and education. Malyshev, on a commission from President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, reaffirmed the readiness of the Russian state to fulfil all previous Soviet obligations arising from the programmes.

The Russian state counsellor and the South Korean side discussed prospects for the development of mutually beneficial academic exchanges.

Vol'skiy, Industrialists Meet Israel's Shamir

LD2701224692 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1027 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 24 Jan (TASS)—Yitzhaq Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, received a delegation of the Russian union of industrialists and entrepreneurs led by Arkadiy Vol'skiy, president of the union, on 23 January. In the course of the conversation, which passed in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere, the head of the Israeli Government showed lively interest in developing

economic ties with Russia. The meeting was attended by Aleksandr Bovin, Russian Federation ambassador in Israel, and prominent representatives of Israeli business circles.

"In the course of intensive contacts with Israeli businessmen and members of the government we became confident that the time has come to normalize not only diplomatic but also economic relations between our countries, Vol'skiy told TASS. Not only have we felt Israeli business' interest in establishing business partnership with Russia but have also obtained agreement on a number of concrete proposals put forward by our delegation. We regard cooperation in the sphere of conversion, agricultural production, and developing food storage capabilities as the most promising".

The delegation stayed in Israel at the invitation of Dov Lautman, president of a local association of entrepreneurs. There is a long-term cooperation accord between the association and the Russian union. Now it has become concrete: a program for joint activity for 1992-93 has been signed. Organizations of Russian and Israeli industrialists have decided to grant each other most-favored-nation status.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Multilateral Talks on Conference Begin in Moscow

LD2801074692 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0710 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 28 Jan (TASS)—The Moscow conference to organize multilateral negotiations on the Middle East opened today under the cochairmanship of the Russian Federation and the United States.

As is known, in addition to the countries of the Middle East region the conference will be attended by members of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, the EC, the European Free Trade Association, and also by other states with an interest in events in the region which are able to make a certain contribution to the establishment of multilateral cooperation.

The principal aim of the conference is to find ways to resolve problems of a panregional nature and also to define the format, subject matter, venue, and time for multilateral negotiations.

It is expected that during the conference a number of working groups will be formed to establish multilateral cooperation in specific spheres, in particular in economic cooperation, disarmament, the use of water resources, and the environment. [passage omitted]

U.S., Russia Co-Chair Meeting

LD2801095792 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0846 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandras Budris, Sergey Postanogov, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, January 28 (TASS)—“We have no intention of vying with anyone for ideological influence or for spheres of military domination, and imperial ambitions are alien to us,” Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated today at the opening of the Moscow conference to organize multilateral talks on the Near East. At the same time, he emphasized, Russia is not disowning and will not abandon its global role as a great power and permanent member of the UN Security Council, especially with regard to the Near East. Russia desires, Kozyrev said, to establish economic links with interested partners in the Near East. “Economic cooperation, stability, a peace settlement—these are synonymous,” he stressed.

According to Russia's foreign minister, one of the main aims of the future multilateral talks is to bring the balance of forces down to a lower level of armaments, to one of sufficiency for defense needs. What is needed is the achievement of collective accords involving purchasers and principal suppliers of weapons for the controlled reduction of the flow of weaponry into the Near East. Also what is needed are measures to regulate the region's own production of weapons, to establish reliable international controls, and measures to rid the region of all types of weapons of mass destruction and to build confidence.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who also opened the Moscow meeting, stressed that the solution of common issues in the Near East needs to be approached on the basis of joint efforts by representatives of the region, with support from the international community. He said that the Moscow forum should not in any way supplant bilateral talks. Baker emphasized that it is only through bilateral discussion that the fundamental territorial issues and the problems of security and peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors can be resolved. At the same time, the secretary of state went on, the problems of refugees, of poverty, of combatting disease and the main thing of all—the threat of war—can be discussed at multilateral talks complementing the dialogue among the Near East parties directly involved. Baker considers it “irresponsible” to put off dealing with those problems in expectation of peace in the region.

According to Western news agency reports the Palestinian representatives boycotted the meeting's opening ceremony when their appeal to its co-chairmen—Russia and the United States—for the inclusion of Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the diaspora in their delegation went unheeded.

Kozyrev Addresses Participants

LD2801083892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev opened the latest round of Near East talks in Moscow this morning. They are being conducted on a multilateral basis this time. The Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations did not attend the opening of the talks. Damascus and Beirut declared they would not be represented at the Moscow round of Near East negotiations since Israel categorically refused to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands at the previous round, in Washington. The Palestinian delegation is in Moscow. A Palestinian delegation spokesman explained their absence from the opening of the meeting as due to the fact that on the insistence of a number of countries, in particular Israel and the United States, the PLO and leaders of Palestinians from East Jerusalem are not represented in the delegation. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev: Countries 'All Equal To Us'

OW2801121792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1056 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the opening of the organizing meeting for the Middle East conference in Moscow on Tuesday [28 January] the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that new Russia no longer divides countries of the Middle East into friends and foes. “They are all equal to us”, he said. He favored the demilitarization of the region and an agreement between all arms dealers and purchasers on reducing the level of armaments to reasonable sufficiency there.

The Russian minister stressed his interest in advancing from partnership to friendly relations with Washington. Russia has renounced its ideological and military rivalry with the USA and no longer views it as its adversary, “even a potential one”, the minister stressed.

The USA and Russia are co-chairmen of the conference.

Pinheiro, Levi Address Meeting

LD2801112792 Moscow TASS in English 1047 GMT
28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Budris, Sergey Postanogov, Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—Peace in the Middle East can be achieved, though the global solution of the conflict depends on the results of bilateral talks between Israel and the neighbouring Arab countries, including the Palestinians, Joao de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese foreign minister, told the Middle East meeting in Moscow on Tuesday [28 January].

Pinheiro, as a representative of the European Community, said the EC wishes success to multilateral talks,

which are aimed at creating "an atmosphere of stability and trust among the participants and are a necessary condition for establishing cooperation in the region".

Pinheiro called on the participants in the Moscow meeting to refrain from "actions which could threaten the peace process in the Middle East". He reiterated the EC appeal to Israel to stop constructing settlements on the occupied Arab territories.

Israel believes it to be very important that the Moscow meeting discusses the issue of arms control and that of creating mutual trust, which is an indispensable element for security agreements in the region, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi told the Moscow meeting on Tuesday.

Mutual trust will help build a peaceful future in the Middle East, he emphasised.

Israel offers broad cooperation to its neighbours which will bring prosperity in many walks of life, according to Levi. Efforts should be joined to help refugees, solve the ecologic problems of the region and cooperate in health protection, he said.

Jordanian Minister on Aims of Moscow Talks

LD2701192492 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT
27 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—"We have arrived here to emphasise our commitment to peace which we have always striven for", Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir told a news conference today. He arrived in Moscow to attend a regular round of the Moscow Middle East peace conference.

"We want lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the principles of international law and legality. We want peace which would give the Palestinian people the right to self-determination, would make it possible to replace rivalry by cooperation and ensure the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem."

Four basic issues—economic cooperation, the utilisation of water resources, disarmament and the environment—are known to be discussed at the meeting in Moscow. The Jordanian delegation has appropriate proposals on these problems, Kamil Abu-Jabir said.

He believes that the refugee issue will also be raised at the conference by the Palestinians while "Jordan will, of course, support them on the matter". He said that the opinion of the Jordanian side is that the Jerusalem issue should be incorporated into the discussion of the entire peace process.

In response to journalists' questions about Palestinians' participation in the conference, the Jordanian foreign minister voiced hope that they would participate in the

meeting. He said that he did not know the composition of the Palestinian delegation and whether it accorded with the Madrid formula.

The Jordanian foreign minister expressed regret that UN representatives would not attend the Moscow meeting. "The United Nations can play the leading role in the Middle East peace process," he emphasised.

Touching upon Israel's stand before the start of the meeting, Kamil Abu-Jabir expressed hope that Israel holds a "serious stand" on the problem of peace. As far as the peace process as a whole is concerned, the minister believes that the results of the process would be of benefit to all the parties concerned.

Notes Absence of Palestinians

OW2801122692 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1056 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir thinks that the Moscow meeting can hardly solve Middle-eastern problems because of the absence of Palestinians. He said the Palestinian issue is the key to the Arab-Israeli settlement and it is impossible to settle regional problems without it.

According to the minister, progress to a settlement requires guarantees of Arab sovereignty over East Jerusalem. He denounced the Israeli policy of continuing the construction of settlements in occupied Arab territories.

'Ashrawi Explains Palestinian Position

LD2801131592 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT
28 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—"We came to Moscow in order to, by representing the entire Palestinian people, take part in the meeting and ensure progress in bilateral talks," Palestinian representative Hanan 'Ashrawi told reporters today.

She said Palestinians refused to take part in the plenary meeting because most of them were excluded from the list of participants. Only three Palestinians, representing the occupied territories, were allowed to participate.

Asked about Russia's position on the Palestinian involvement in the talks, Hanan 'Ashrawi said "it is very close to the U.S. position, if not identical". Commenting on the Arab approach to the problem, she said they did not have a common view. However, the Arabs will apply efforts to ensure that the Palestinians attend the talks.

"We arrived for the conference in order to discuss key issues and any decision, which is not based on equality, is doomed to failure," she said.

A text of a Palestinian statement that was planned to be delivered at the Moscow talks was circulated between reporters, as well as a statement by the Palestinian

delegation, accusing Israel of "imposing artificial obstacles, undermining the basis for the talks".

Limitations agreed by the Palestinians in Madrid in order to start the peace process do not extend to Moscow, it said.

Delegate al-Husayni Interviewed

LD2801120292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, chief Palestinian delegate to the Moscow round of the Arab-Israeli talks, by unidentified correspondent in Moscow; date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Video shows foyer of conference venue, then unidentified correspondent interviewing al-Husayni] [Correspondent] The Palestinian delegation which arrived in Moscow yesterday is not taking part in the preparatory meeting for a Near East settlement. Its representative in Moscow gave an exclusive interview to this "Vesti" correspondent.

[Al-Husayni, in English fading to correspondent's translation] We sent the names of the members of our delegation to the co-chairmen of the meeting, but we were told that only the Madrid formula is acceptable. We cannot understand that, nor can we accept it.

[Correspondent] The Palestinian representative stressed that his delegation does not intend to sabotage the Moscow meeting or force any other delegation to boycott it.

[Al-Husayni] We demand and insist that we are accepted at the meeting as a component part of the Near East. We are also people and we have to be treated like people. If this meeting has been set up to prepare the ground for a Near East settlement then I believe it is important for Israel to normalize its relations with the Palestinians to a greater degree than with other Arab peoples.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Decrees on New Government Appointments

PM2801100192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] By decrees of the president of the Russian Federation, Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov has been appointed state counselor of the Russian Federation on questions of foreign policy;

Marat Petrovich Vasilchuk has been appointed chairman of the State Committee for the Supervision of Safe Working Practices in Industry and for Mine Supervision under the president of the Russian Federation;

Aleksey Yevgenyevich Vilken has been appointed chairman of the Russian Federation Ministry of Health Medical Industry Committee and Russian Federation deputy minister of health.

By order of the president of the Russian Federation, Viktor Alekseyevich Vladimirov and Anatoliy Ivanovich Tkachev have been appointed deputy chairmen of the State Committee on Matters Concerning Civil Defense, States of Emergency, and the Eradication of the Effects of Natural Disasters under the president of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Decree Retires Numerous Generals

PM2401171192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jan 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 2

[Viktor Litovkin article: "Army Eliminates Yet Another Group of Forces—the 'Paradise' Group"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree No 13 dated 11 January this year abolishes the group of general inspectors of the Commonwealth Armed Forces and retires 53 chief marshals, marshals of arms of service, and army generals.

At the same time 62 lieutenants and officers of ranks up to colonel—orderlies, adjutants of the former military leaders, and staffers of their secretariat—are being discharged into the reserve or will be transferred to new postings. Also, the 35 black "Volga" cars and 100 drivers serving the generals in shifts virtually round the clock will be used for other purposes. The fate of the dachas funded by the former Defense Ministry is being decided. Over 100,000 rubles [R] spent on paying the group will be returned to the military department's budget. In January 1992 alone the inspectors and their aides received R353,000 in pay.

So one of the youngest groups of forces of the former Soviet Army—youngest in terms of the age of the group, rather than the age of its members—is ceasing its activity. Namely the "paradise" group, nicknamed thus by military people because a major military leader who entered the group from the post of minister, deputy minister, commander in chief of a branch of the Armed Forces, or commander of an arm of service retained all the privileges appropriate to his rank but was no longer answerable for anything. He could drive to work just for a party meeting or to get his pay, although he did not even have to go in for that: They would bring him his pay at home. And he would serve in this fashion until the natural end of his days.

The group was set up by a secret resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers dated 30 January 1958. As this document says—incidentally, it is still classified—the group was set up "with a view to utilizing the experience and knowledge of marshals, admirals, army generals, colonel generals, and some lieutenant generals and vice admirals who have reached an age where, because of

their state of health and prospects for further employment, they cannot continue to take on a full workload"...

This resolution was signed by Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay Bulganin, chairman of the Council of Ministers and until a little while before minister of the Armed Forces. He himself was unable to take advantage of his creation. He was demoted to colonel general as a member of the antiparty group, and, by order of Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev dated 20 July 1960, the group of general inspectors included only people of the rank of army general and above and only certain colonel generals who had performed "special services." Nikolay Aleksandrovich no longer had such services.

In 1988 Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov, with Mikhail Gorbachev's blessing and support, struck a serious blow to the "paradise" group, almost halving its size. He discharged all the colonel generals into the reserve, but he was unable to do what Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov has managed to do (but people in Yazov's entourage do claim that he did entertain the idea of eliminating the General Inspectorate), since the Central Committee and its Politburo would not let him.

Incidentally, it was at this time that only the second civilian official in its entire history literally burst into the "paradise" group—Lev Zaykov, former deputy chairman of the Defense Council, first secretary of Moscow CPSU City Committee, secretary of the Central Committee, and member of the Politburo. (The first civilian to be a member of the group of general inspectors was Sergey Afanasyev, minister of general machine building—the missile ministry.)

Zaykov, who had never served in the Army and had received the rank of "reserve senior lieutenant" in a party post, "wangled" himself a marshal's pay and marshal's privileges in the "paradise" group, which was a source of infinite annoyance to the group's servicemen. But, accustomed to party discipline, they soon reconciled themselves to this event, especially as it changed nothing about their personal position.

In addition to these civilians, the group of general inspectors included such formerly well known people as Chief Marshal of Aviation Boris Bugayev, minister of civil aviation, Army General Petr Ivashutin, chief of the General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate, and Army General Vitaliy Fedorchuk, KGB chairman... The oldest among them was twice Hero of the Soviet Union Army General Iosif Gusakovskiy, whose last post was chief of the Defense Ministry Main Personnel Directorate and who was born in 1904. The youngest, and the only army general not to have participated in the Great Patriotic War, was Aleksey Lizichev, former chief of the Main Political Directorate. He is 63. Since 1958, 181 people have served in the group.

It is interesting that the army generals who left their posts after the August events—Konstantin Kochetov, Mikhail Moiseyev, and Yuriy Yashin—did not join the group of general inspectors. And that same Yeltsin

decree No 13 of 11 January leaves four Marshals of the Soviet Union—Sergey Sokolov, former defense minister, Viktor Kulikov, former commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces, Vasilii Petrov, former commander in chief of the Ground Forces, and Nikolay Ogarkov, former chief of the General Staff, later commander of the Western Salient—in the Army "as consultants and advisers to the CIS Armed Forces Main Command."

"The legal basis for eliminating the group of general inspectors," your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told by Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, chief of the Armed Forces Administration of Affairs, "was the establishment by the Russian president of a maximum term of service [srok sluzhby] for colonel generals and army generals—60 years. Now everyone without exception who has reached this age is being discharged into the reserve. Lieutenant generals and major generals can serve until 55, but colonels can serve only until 50."

It has to be noted that the "paradise" group is the only one that is being eliminated so swiftly—in three months and virtually painlessly. All its servicemen are fully supplied with quite comfortable apartments and even dachas. Admittedly, they will soon have to bid farewell to dachas paid for by the Armed Forces Main Command, but they will be able to buy another, one of the ones now being sold off by the former Defense Ministry. In 1991 their value fluctuated between R70,000 and R120,000. But they could also build a new dacha—they have already been allocated land in Moscow Oblast's Krasnogorskiy Rayon.

With all the additional payments, taking into account the long-service payments of army generals and marshals of arms of service, they will have quite good pensions practically equal to the salary of the former USSR president—a minimum of R3,150. These will increase in line with the rise in prices and the cost of living. The same goes for all servicemen. But when it comes to health care the generals will be served by a polyclinic and the Mandryko Hospital, on the capital's Arbat. They will be able to travel there (people of advanced age and poor health) by prior arrangement in vehicles from the reserve pool of the Main Command's garage, though for no more than 20 hours per month and for payment of a fee. This will be cheaper than a taxi but will cover all the car's operating expenses.

One final point. Yeltsin's decree was prepared within the Armed Forces Main Command. Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov submitted it to the Russian president for his signature. By this act the commander in chief left himself practically no "fallback position," for his rank, translated into "Ground Forces language," is equivalent to army general and the rank of "Marshal of the Soviet Union" will no longer exist.

Yeltsin Decree on Protection of State Secrets*PM2701091992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 22 Jan 92 First Edition p 2*

[Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On the Protection of the Russian Federation's State Secrets," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 14 January 1992, and carried under the rubric "Official Section"]

[Text] For the purpose of protecting the Russian Federation's state secrets I resolve:

1. That leaders of ministries, departments, and central institutions of the Russian Federation, Councils of Ministers of republics within the Russian Federation, organs of executive power of krais, oblasts, and autonomous formations, the mayors of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and the leaders of institutions, organizations, and enterprises (regardless of forms of ownership) who are in possession of state secrets shall be guided by the existing normative acts on this question until the publication of new legislative acts of the Russian Federation regulating the protection of the state secrets of the Russian Federation.

To carry out this work, they shall have in their structures special independent subdivisions and, where the volume of work to protect state secrets is insignificant, especially appointed officials.

2. The Russian Federation Government shall examine questions of the organization of the protection of the Russian Federation's state secrets and, where necessary, submit the corresponding proposals.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs shall be entrusted with coordinating activity in organizing the protection of the state secrets of the Russian Federation.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin

[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 14 January 1992

Yeltsin Issues Decree on CPSU Rest Homes*LD2301123292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree, according to which sanatoria and rest homes which formerly belonged to the CPSU Central Committee, will be redesignated for the treatment of veterans and needy citizens. So, the well-known Gorkiy Sanatorium in Moscow Oblast has been reserved for the treatment of participants of the Great Patriotic War, of victims of the repressions, and also of the needy. The Rossiya sanatorium in Yessentuki will now offer treatment to victims from the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station, and to war veterans and the needy. The Tchaikovsky rest home in Moscow Oblast is being handed over to parents with children, and at the same time the Rossiya sanatorium in Sochi, the

Luch sanatorium in Kislovodsk, Gornyy Voz dukh in Zheleznovodsk, and a series of other health establishments are being handed over to the Russian Ministry of Health for the treatment of parents with children. The decree was signed on 20 January this year and came into effect the same day.

Yeltsin Rules on State, Law Administration*PM2401143092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 23 Jan 92 First Edition p 2*

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Ordinances"]

[Text] In connection with the formation of the Presidential State and Law Administration and the approval of its structure, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has resolved on the abolition of the Russian Presidential Administration department of development of the federation and national problems and department of law enforcement organs and defense questions.

The material and technical base, staffing allocation, and wage fund of the departments that have been abolished are to be transferred to the Presidential State and Law Administration. Their staffers are declared redundant. The chief of the apparatus of the Russian Government is instructed to resolve the question of finding jobs for the released workers in accordance with existing legislation.

The material and technical base, codification system [kodifikatsiya], archive stocks, staffing allocations, and appropriations for their maintenance previously belonging to the former legal department of the abolished USSR Cabinet of Ministers which are on the books of the Russian Federation State Committee for Management of State Property are to be transferred to the Presidential State and Law Administration.

Yeltsin Forms Servicemen's Affairs Committee*PM2801110392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 27 Jan 92 First Edition p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Official Section"]

[Text] A decree by Boris Yeltsin has created a Committee for the Affairs of Servicemen and Members of Their Families under the President of the Russian Federation based on the abolished similar committee under the USSR president. Anatoliy Alekseyev has been appointed chairman of the new committee.

Yeltsin Names Armed Forces Working Group*PM2401144492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 23 Jan 92 First Edition p 2*

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Ordinances"]

[Text] The working group formed by an ordinance of B. Yeltsin to conduct an expert study of normative acts on questions of the organization and activity of the Armed Forces, includes:

A. Kotenkov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee on Defense and Security; V. Dzyuba, deputy chief of the Administration of Affairs of the Central Committee Armed Forces Commander in Chief; A. Zmeyerovskiy, section chief at the Russian Foreign Ministry International Legal Administration; A. Muranov, chief of the Military Tribunals Directorate; V. Moiseyenko, section chief at the Naval Main Staff Directorate; V. Nikitin, section chief at the Office of the Russian Federation State Counselor for Defense; V. Sletkin, sector chief at the former department of law enforcement organs and defense questions at the Administration of Affairs of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration; and Yu. Starosadchev, chief of the legal group of the CIS Armed Forces Central Financial Administration.

Yeltsin Response to Khasbulatov Viewed

924C0442A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 17 Jan 92 p 1

[Article by Sergey Parkhomenko: "Russian President Defended Government and Promised to Defend Army"]

[Text] A public rebuke from the republic president to the chairman of the parliament is a rare enough event in the country's political life that almost all the Russian power elite gathered in the hall of the plenary sessions of the White House. Of course, Boris Yeltsin's speech before the Supreme Soviet was diplomatically motivated by the need to "coordinate the efforts of the legislative and the executive during the course of the reform." But from the moment Ruslan Khasbulatov released a volley of accusations against the existing cabinet that were candid to the point of cruelty, the real interest was mainly in finding out on which side of the split appearing in the Russian leadership the president's position would be.

The gentleness and restraint of his statements, which can be regarded as a direct response to the attack from the chairman of the parliament, give cause to assume that the relations between the heads of the two opposing (as it began to appear on Monday) sides were clarified early on and without witnesses. Boris Yeltsin avoided direct—naming names—criticism of the troublemakers, limiting himself to impersonal constructions, but here he did not feel constrained by epithets and qualifications. Having duly acknowledged the patience and courage of the population in the beginning of his speech, he stated: "Against this background it is particularly inappropriate to have confusion and even panic among certain representatives of power, public figures, and even the mass media. To capitalize on difficulties at a time like this and try to disorganize the process for the sake of minor political goals is simply heretical..." Regarding the necessary interaction between the Supreme Soviet and the

government, he noted: "We have a common cause and any competition in the struggle for leadership is inappropriate here..."

It was not surprising that, hearing this, the hall—where, in addition to the uncommonly complete deputy forum, almost the full government team had gathered the day before—instantly felt that the alignment of forces was clearly not in favor of the head of the parliament. Ruslan Khasbulatov himself felt this when the audience reacted extremely disapprovingly to his attempt to respond to the speech by Yegor Gaydar with a commentary in the style so typical of the chairman.

The incident was summed up by Gennadiy Burbulis at a—one wants to say "post-match"—news conference. By the end of the day he was able to hint: This meeting will be a good lesson to those who are not sufficiently "clear and balanced in their public statements" and at the same time a lesson in "vigilance" for the cabinet and its supporters... Since by the end of the day members of the republic administration were still confident that they "were working and would continue to work as long as Boris Nikolayevich had the absolute support of the government and until the reforms were irreversible."

Burbulis Interviewed on Events of Past Week

LD2701003392

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1820 GMT on 26 January, carries a 20-minute edition of the "Facing Russia" program in which commentator Aleksandr Shashkov interviews Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis, first vice prime minister of the Russian Government.

Noting that another week has passed since the start of the economic reform, Shashkov asks Burbulis whether the past week represents a step "toward the bright future of market abundance," a step backward, or just marking time.

Burbulis, cautioning against speaking about markets in such colored tones, notes the difficult period Russians have endured over the past month, but highlights two positive points: First, a proper pricing policy is emerging as prices fall, and the fabric of economic relations between the different sectors of the economy is just beginning to be woven; second, an ample understanding exists among Russians of the reasons for what is happening. Burbulis says: "That tortuous question—who needs your reforms—has already been removed from society. We all need the reforms! Naturally, various strata of the population accept this answer to different degrees and find themselves in different conditions in terms of their manner of participating in the reforms. The week has shown the main conclusion, that, strategically, the president of Russia, the government, and the Supreme Soviet are acting correctly." He says that increasingly, more specific and demanding attention has to be paid to specific decisions, the forms of their organization, and the vital details of the reforms. He

then recalls last week's expanded meeting of the government, which he says was constructively critical.

Responding to Shashkov's question as to whether the old establishment continues to exert its influence, Burbulis concedes that there are still many people who slow down business in official bodies. He stresses that such people should move on.

Burbulis names the meeting of the Supreme Soviet, at which the budget was discussed, as another major event of the past week. It enabled the government to formulate basic approaches toward the reform and to convince the Supreme Soviet and the population that without improving the financial and money system there can be no talk of economic reform at all. He expresses satisfaction with the decisions made by the Supreme Soviet.

Referring to pressure exerted on the Supreme Soviet by Khasbulatov and Yeltsin's coming to the defense of the government, Shashkov asks: "Even though it is unlikely, what do you think, if the government were unexpectedly to lose the support of the president and the support of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, would it be capable of defending its policy itself?"

Burbulis replies: "We feel that the main things have been done. We have a popularly elected president who has taken upon himself responsibility for the most radical transformation of our way of life. He has formed a cabinet of reforms. He did this based on constitutional decisions of the congress, which granted him these powers. Within the framework of our professional, civic, and political position, we are now implementing this work and the instructions of the president. Everything else is refining the situation within the framework of a single path. We have been and we will be a stable government. We will work in such a manner as our strength and intellect allow. We regard all such hints and complaints addressed to us as natural, for the very reason that not everybody understands the whole contents of the transformations being implemented."

Shashkov then refers to an article in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, saying: "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that Yeltsin's authority is now declining, that the authority of the government may decline, and that this is a direct threat to the reforms."

Burbulis replies: "I can say that it is not the authority of President Yeltsin that is declining, but that the gloss of the mystical, religious attitude to historic events and to processes we have brought from those days is being removed. At the same time, President Yeltsin, as a figure, as the head of state, has sufficiently stable authority among the population. We are convinced of this everywhere. Of course, to a certain extent, this is not in agreement with those who write about social and economic processes. This is not in agreement with those who would like to have drama every day in Russian power. There are several points of view on the process. One is the view of the ordinary Russian who is not occupied with sorting out these nuances, but who all the

same thinks about the main things, such as how to live better as he becomes free. Thus, he becomes a fundamentally different person, because freedom is actually a whole range of abilities, capabilities, and knowledge of a personal and state nature. This view is quite different. In this regard, such assessments are not well-founded."

Shashkov asks: "Gennadiy Eduardovich, we have singled out two major events this week—the joint meeting of the government and the heads of administrations and the adoption of a budget blueprint. We are left with the third event."

Burbulis answers: "I think that a most important event of recent days is that we started to rise spiritually and morally. We started to rise in Russian ideological terms. This straightening out of the Russian individual and Russia is a most important fact of the past few days."

Shashkov then asks: "We are speaking more and more about domestic policy. Last week you paid visits to Finland and Sweden. What are the results of this trip? What impressions did you gain? This is the main thing. Perhaps you have a preview as to what the coming visit by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to London, the United States, and Ottawa will produce."

Burbulis responds: "I feel that this is a very organic question and appropriate for our conversation. The thing is that we are guided by clear principles of the unity of the domestic and foreign policy of the Russian state; we intend to prove that for us today, foreign policy is an organic sphere for the conduct of reforms in Russia and has, in a good sense, an applied, pragmatic nature. It appears that the trip abroad, and the issues tackled and the matters implemented there, are directly linked with problems and territories of Russia."

"Of even greater significance—I think that this will be an historic event of an unrepeatable scale—is the participation of the head of state, Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, in the meeting of the UN Security Council, which has been set for 31 January. The position of the Russian Federation on the worldwide process and the problems of comprehensive security will be formulated."

"Boris Nikolayevich is today preparing a whole range of proposals that will confirm that Russia is moving toward reforms, removing its supermilitarized inheritance, changing not only the structure of the economy, but also the principles of the world outlook of the Russian state."

"We are in favor of a businesslike, dynamic, accessible Russian diplomacy that is comprehensible to Russians and shared by them—a diplomacy which has its own unrepeatable sense of dignity and what I sometimes call, decent [dobryy] diplomacy which is open, trusting, and devoid of those imperial predilections that are still at times associated with Russia for some reason."

Shashkov concludes by thanking Burbulis for his time.

Medical Strike Set for 29 Jan Postponed

LD2701205392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The all-Russian strike by health care staff scheduled for 29 January has been postponed, at least so the press center of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia reports. By a special decree of the Russian Federation president, a number of steps has been mapped out aimed at solving the main issues raised by the doctors.

It is envisaged that as of 1 February their average salary will amount to about 1,200 rubles. Means for purchasing medicines and instruments are being earmarked. A list of paid medical services is being extended. Work on a five-year program for developing a network for provision of medicines is starting. If these promises are not fulfilled, the issue of holding a strike will be raised again.

Press Minister Cited on News Agency Merger

PM2801093992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
25 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by TASS correspondents Anatoliy Aladinskiy and Yuriy Sizov: "TASS: Going in Order To Remain. Mikhail Poltoranin's Meeting with the TASS Collegium"; last two paragraphs are unattributed report]

[Text] The leadership of the Russian Federation is trying to see to it that TASS continues to ensure the viability of the unified information area among the sovereign countries of the former Union. This thought was emphasized by Mikhail Poltoranin, Russia's minister of the press and mass information, at a 23 January meeting with the TASS Collegium. He reported that the Russian president has signed the decree on the formation of a new state information structure based on TASS and part of the former APN.

"TASS will not be cut back, for it is only a question of uniting in a single force the strong creative and technical forces of TASS and of part of the former NOVOSTI agency," the minister declared.

According to the Russian president's Decree No. 37 of 22 January, the new information organ will be called ITAR—the Information Telegraph Agency of Russia. At the same time, the minister emphasized, the trade mark of TASS, as one of five world agencies, must also be preserved in the name of the new structure. This could be TASS-ITAR, for example, Mikhail Poltoranin explained.

In connection with the merger TASS remains and continues to function as the information agency of the sovereign countries and organizes the gathering and dissemination of information both within the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] and throughout the world.

Financial Difficulties Are at the Bottom of the Merger

Commenting on the Russian president's decree, Mikhail Poltoranin reported that the grounds for adopting it were provided, in particular, by the financial difficulties which the Russian Federation is experiencing. He emphasized that it is too great an imposition to maintain parallel state information structures. The Russian Information Agency (RIA) had requested considerable sums for 1992. TASS too had sizable expenditure. Large amounts of currency are needed to maintain the network of foreign correspondents. So the idea of creating a unified agency based on TASS and part of the NOVOSTI agency's former structures was born.

The Russian leadership did everything, Mikhail Poltoranin pointed out, to assist RIA's development: The agency received the premises of the former APN, reliable communications channels, and equipment. But, instead of developing and improving its information structure, RIA's new leaders engaged in its "statization." Today, according to the minister, there is not a single staffer left in this agency who is employed in the commercial structure. As a result, two state information agencies arose on Russia's territory.

The technical potential of TASS, Mikhail Poltoranin went on to say, today makes it possible to resolve one more very important problem: not only to convey information to newspapers but also to maintain reliable communications with the heads of local administrations.

On no account, he remarked, should this decree be viewed as showing Russia's desire to "appropriate TASS and deprive the former republics of communications channels." On the contrary, the minister declared, TASS must serve the cause of uniting the sovereign countries.

Not Encroaching on Independence

The address to members of the TASS Collegium naturally developed into an intense dialogue, in the course of which Mikhail Poltoranin answered numerous questions from his journalist colleagues. One of them expressed the fear that the change in the subordination of TASS and the imparting of the status of a state structure to it could deprive it of the independence that it has acquired in recent months.

Mikhail Poltoranin reminded them that TASS has never been a commercial company or joint-stock company. The chief aim, he emphasized, is to save the mighty intellectual and technical potential of TASS from collapse and to give the agency state support at this difficult time. As regards independence in choosing topics for information and expressing a journalistic position, all the efforts of the Russian Federation's leadership have always been aimed precisely at freedom of creative choice and the democratization of the press.

The discussion at the meeting also touched on ways to transfer the agency to a shareholding basis as a means of overcoming financial difficulties. Collegium members

pointed out that TASS is actively seeking commercial "floats" to enable the agency's collective to hold out in these complex times: A commercial information service has been set up, and a daily newspaper is being prepared for publication. The following fact was cited as an example of the agency's systematic commercialization: At the end of last August the agency bore a loss of more than 100,000 rubles [R], which specialists reckon should have increased to almost R1 million by the end of the year. However, thanks to the efforts of the entire collective the loss was extinguished in the space of four months and the profit made amounted to R2 million. In this connection the minister emphasized that a future area of reforms in the agency will be its transfer to a shareholding basis.

An Easy Life Is Not Foreseen

"Everything that has been created at TASS will remain there," the minister commented on these plans. "Moreover, the possibility is now emerging of strengthening the agency's economic activity with the help of the publishing house of the former APN. But, at the same time, let TASS employees not reckon on an easy life, for they must prepare for grim trials in the field of competition."

Answering a question about the mechanism for merging TASS with the former APN, Mikhail Poltoranin emphasized that this process will, naturally, take place with both sides agreeing all organizational, technological, and economic questions. "We plan to conduct the merger process carefully, taking the interests of the collectives into account," he pointed out, adding that a large group of specialists will remain in the former APN and will form the backbone of the new economic information agency. "This will be Russia's third information agency and, like RIA, it will become a joint-stock enterprise," the minister pointed out.

Mikhail Fedotov: I Will Not Lead the Agency

In an interview with INTERFAX Mikhail Fedotov, Russia's deputy minister of the press and mass information, refuted information that has appeared in the press that he was the initiator of the president's decree on the merger of the RIA-NOVOSTI and TASS agencies. M. Fedotov said that, by virtue of his post, he merely participated in preparing the presidential decree.

The deputy minister also rejected the assumption that he will head the information agency created on the basis of them.

'Three Variants' Considered

LD2701170292 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 4, 26 Jan 92 p 3

[Dmitriy Sidorov article: "TASS + RIA = ?"]

[Text] TASS General Director Vitaliy Ignatenko, as well as his colleague from RIA Andrey Vinogradov, have a

good chance in the near future of leaving their jobs, while there may be one fewer press agency in Russia.

For several weeks now the Russian Ministry of the Press and Information has been preparing a draft for the reorganization of these agencies, which to all appearances will merge into a new one, the name of which has yet to be decided. David Tsubriya, head of the legal department of the Ministry of Press and Information, believes there is not yet cause for alarm. Three variants are being worked on: combining the agencies to form an information center, merging RIA into TASS, or merging TASS into RIA. The latter two variants, says Tsubriya, will also result in the creation of a powerful Russian press agency. According to information received by MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI from reliable sources, it has become clear that the initiator of this plan is Mikhail Fedotov, Deputy Minister of Information and the Press of Russia. It is entirely possible that he himself will become the head of the new information structure.

Neither TASS nor RIA, it seems, are delighted by such changes. Vitaliy Ignatenko, whose position would seem to be less secure because he was appointed by Mikhail Gorbachev, is attempting to use TASS as a base for forming an interstate press agency serving all countries of the CIS. He mentioned this several days ago in an appearance before press agency heads of countries belonging to the CIS.

For the heads of RIA these changes would signal the end of their independent activity. In an interview with MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, Deputy General Director Andrey Leonidov said that this is simply an attempt to shut them up. He compared the possible merger of RIA and TASS to an order combining the KGB and the MVD. Furthermore, Davidov added that the idea behind the plan and its elaboration has been concealed from RIA's leadership.

There are other problems along with these. TASS is demanding an astronomical sum of almost 900,000 rubles from its subscribers for a daily package of union [soyuzniy] and foreign political information. RIA is far more modest. But if after several months the Russian Information Agency ceases to exist, where will that leave its subscribers?

Leak of KGB Archive Secrets Criticized

PM2701154592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
25 Jan 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 7

[Ella Maksimova article: "While KGB Archives Are Without a Master, Secrets Are Leaking to the West"]

[Text] D. Volkogonov, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for the Transfer and Acceptance of CPSU and USSR KGB Archives, and his deputy—R. Pikhoya, chairman of the Russian Committee for Archive Affairs—have sent a letter to the Russian president. They are alarmed at the increasingly frequent reports in the Russian and foreign press and on Central Television

about "instances of the sale of documents from the CPSU and KGB archives to various foreign organizations. Neither the parliamentary commission nor the Committee for Archive Affairs has ever examined or sanctioned deals of such a kind. We believe that archives—the people's memory and a priceless national asset—cannot be a commodity."

Almost six months after the decree on the transfer of the KGB archives to Russia they have still not passed to new ownership.

On the same day that the letter was handed to B. Yeltsin, the parliamentary commission was discussing at its regular session the draft decision "On the KGB Archives," which defines accurately and specifically just what is being removed from the secret archives. Of course, it was drawn up rather late, but there are objective reasons, including the dangerously explosive nature of the material liable to be removed from the powerful, superclosed department.

Here is the key provision of the decision "On the KGB Archives": "Archive materials of the central security organ and of local security organs that are 15 years or more old are liable to be handed over." This is the maximum time for any ministry and department of the country, after which the archives are surrendered into state keeping.

Exceptions are provided for—for materials "in those areas of KGB activity which have ceased because they did not conform with the Russian Federation's new legislation and Constitution." These—even the most recent ones—do not depend on the time that has elapsed. On the other hand, everything connected with the existing operational system of agents remains with the department, albeit for no more than 30 years.

It is worth listing what is being removed entirely and completely, at least the main sections. Screening and checking files on citizens who have been in prison, and all captured (trofeynny) materials. Archive investigation files—even those less than 15 years old for victims of political repression. The stock of secret office work—correspondence, instructions, information, statistics, minutes of conferences, etc. The personal files, 30 or more years old, of former security organ staffers.

Everything I have listed will make up more than two-thirds of the total volume of KGB archive documents.

As regards the records of current operations and agents' personal and work files, the study of them will continue for the present.

The decision makes provision for where all the materials will be housed. In the provinces they will go to oblast state archives. The creation in Moscow of the Russian Center for the Storage and Study of State Security Services Documents has been announced. It will include the archives of the KGB Administration for Moscow and Moscow Oblast.

The next stage of the commission's work is temporary regulations—until the Law on Archives is adopted—governing the use of the wealth of archives acquired. It may be assumed in advance that the working group will come up against the lack of a law on state secrets which sets the same criteria of secrecy for all establishments. An interdepartmental commission will have to be set up. Again it will take it upon itself to create temporary declassification norms.

There are too many gaps where there should be laws to ensure the citizens' right to free access to archive information. Temporary substitutes have to be created. They should not become permanent, as has been the way in our country...

The decision was adopted unanimously.

I will note two points that emerged during the discussion. The commission members together criticized severely a half-measure—the president's recent decree "On the Protection of the Russian Federation's State Secrets"—as ill-considered and hasty. The fate of the decree on the merger of security and internal affairs organs could befall it. Our Committee for Freedom of Conscience, Father Gleb Yakunin said, intends to ask the Constitutional Court to repeal it.

A question about the USSR president's archive was asked. That part which the Russian president needs to carry out his presidential duties is passing to his own archive. Documents of a historical nature will be transferred to the appropriate Russian archives.

...If the transfer and acceptance of state security archives had not been delayed, there obviously would not have been any grounds for the letter with which this report begins. Fabrications and rumors would not have arisen. The latest one, carried on Central Television on the evening of 21 January and repeated on the morning of 22 January, says that secret documents have been sold to Britain for millions. To the Chadwyck-Healey Company Limited, for example. But it is a question of normal humanitarian-commercial cooperation, which is new only to us, while for the world's archives it is an everyday means of disseminating and selling information. Copies of documents turn into money.

I have seen the agreement that the Russian Committee for Archive Affairs concluded with Chadwyck-Healey. What secrecy, what millions! Microfiches and microfilms of materials absolutely open to Soviet researchers in the former Central Party Archive. Chadwyck-Healey's first publications will include letters and papers of Martov, Zasulich, Ordzhonikidze, Molotov, Zhdanov, etc. The advance totals...1,000 pounds sterling.

But let us continue our familiarization with the letter to the president.

"At the same time we have irrefutable data that officials of the former KGB illegally transferred (sold) state

documents to the West. Specific persons involved in these actions are also known..."

In the article "Hollywood-KGB: We Had a Strange Meeting..." in IZVESTIYA (No. 14) A. Shalnev, our correspondent in the United States, reports on a deal between the Federal Security Agency and a U.S. firm planning to stage a television serial based on the former committee's top-secret files. This included secret Soviet-U.S. cooperation at the time of the war in the Persian Gulf. The agency, which no longer exists, was trading in secrets which did not belong to it.

In the summer readers of the newspaper DIE ZEIT learned of a quite amazing instance: None other than KGB Lieutenant General S. Kondrashov had offered the federal archive in Bonn the observation file on Count Schulenburg, German ambassador to the Soviet Union. Naturally, the copies are stamped secret. This means that no Soviet citizen had access to them. Why does a state security worker hand this over to foreigners?!

A final quote from the letter: "Comrade Barannikov has been informed, and we hope that the appropriate organs will conduct a careful investigation." We also hope for this, as well as that its results will not be concealed from the public.

Latest Form of Security Services Assessed

PM2601150192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
22 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Sergey Mostovshchikov report: "KGB-ISS-MSIA-FSA-AAARGH?"]

[Text] Perestroyka is under way again at the Lubyanka. On Saturday 18 January a new incumbent arrived in the KGB chairman's office—51-year-old militiaman Viktor Barannikov, who has been entrusted with the new job by a recent decree by Boris Yeltsin. Straightaway, on Monday 20 January, he held a conference at which proposals were discussed for creating and strengthening the organization whose latest—clearly not its final—name is the Russian Federal Security Agency [FSA]. The special commission which until recently had been preparing for the abortive merger with the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] reported on ideas about how to work in a new way and not depend on the MVD.

In theory, there is nothing simpler in our country than to write a decree. You can even write two totally mutually exclusive decrees, but only if the same people are going to devise and execute all the incompatible actions. Viktor Barannikov and his former first deputy, Viktor Yerin, who are thought, according to certain unofficial information, to be the originators of the idea of merging the KGB and the militia, will now run these bodies, but separately.

According to available information, at the Lubyanka the latest innovation will find expression in the fact that it will change its name for the fourth time in five months.

The special services will most probably be called the Russian Ministry of Security [RMS], without the word "state," probably so as not to evoke among the people dark associations with the MGB [Ministry of State Security].

Other changes are not yet clear. At least, until the question is finally resolved at the top, the KGB-ISS [Interrepublic Security Service]-FSA-RMS is trying not to say very much. But everything suggests that V. Barannikov will start by abolishing the term "departments," introduced by his predecessor Vadim Bakatin, and will introduce the historically modest term "directorates." The number of directorates will most probably remain almost the same as before. Moreover, the essence of the committee's work will likewise remain the same—combating foreign spies and internal criminals. There are, it is true, grounds for believing that, in formal terms, there will be merely a slight shift of emphasis.

Thus, for example, there is a plan to create a separate directorate to combat terrorism. The FSA-RMS also wants to take over crime, but of a particular sort: the drugs mafia, smuggling, corruption, and also the criminal activity of so-called organized crime (the mafia), which is approaching international levels in its scale. RMS officers may also take part in joint operations with the militia, if such operations are required. This is how the spheres of influence of the Lubyanka and the MVD over the Russian criminal world will probably be distributed.

IZVESTIYA's interlocutors claim that there are no plans yet to take back any of the structures which Bakatin withdrew from the KGB system. No particular staff reductions are planned either. Dismissals, the Lubyanka assures people, will affect only security officers of pensionable age, for whom it is time to stop working on the invisible front anyway.

Nevertheless, there have already been dismissals of staff who are not of pensionable age. The first to be dismissed by Yeltsin's decree was former ISS chief Vadim Bakatin. The second was his first deputy, Anatoliy Oleynikov, who managed, admittedly, to spend some time as Barannikov's deputy in the MSIA [Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs] and to be responsible for the work of the special services for a few weeks. Anatoliy Oleynikov has now been removed from his post, and not reappointed anywhere.

"So at the moment I sit in my office and am formally considered unemployed," Oleynikov says. "I have not yet received any offers from Barannikov. And I do not know whether I will be needed in this work."

At the moment it is indeed difficult to say who Viktor Barannikov will turn out to need and, more importantly, what he will turn out to need.

Putschist Boldin To Be Released From Hospital

PM2701095392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
22 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[RIA report: "Condition of 'Gray Eminence' Improving"]

[Text] "Valeriy Boldin's condition is improving," Lev Tutantsev, chief physician at Moscow Hospital No. 20, reported. Valeriy Boldin, who was recently Gorbachev's "right-hand man" and is now one of the suspects in the State Committee for the State of Emergency case, was admitted to this hospital 2 January "with internal bleeding from dilated varicose veins of the esophagus." Following a complex operation, he has been in intensive care for several days. He is now in a regular three-bed ward and will soon be discharged from hospital. However, in the physicians' opinion, his condition could deteriorate again.

Coup Defendants' Families Issue Appeal to UN

LD2601205692 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russia 2340 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jan [TASS]—Relatives of former USSR leaders who were arrested in connection with the 1991 August putsch demand that the forthcoming trial be "open, objective and impartial".

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper publishes their letter today, addressed to the UN Secretary General, UN Commission for Human Rights, international association of democratic lawyers and the Amnesty International organization.

According to the authors of the letter, "the investigation was done in a nonobjective, one-sided and tendentious way and clearly favoring the prosecution." The relatives of the detainees think that "only the presence of foreign representatives may to some extent stop the forthcoming trial from being turned into a crude reprisal against political opponents."

The letter was signed by the relatives of eight of the 14 detainees. The investigation of the case against the members of the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] was completed a few days ago.

Chief Procurator Answers Journalists' Questions

LD2501221692

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 22 January carries a 55-minute edition of the "Without Retouching" program. Russian chief procurator Valentin Stepankov is presented to assembled journalists by the program's host, Sergey Torchinskiy.

Nikolay Andreyev of IZVESTIYA asks the first question on what journalists are entitled to know? Stepankov says that secrets connected with criminal investigations needed to be preserved. (Valeriy Kachurin) of RAB-OCHAYA TRIBUNA then asks about the affair of

Parfenov, a Riga Special Purpose Militia Detachment official. Stepankov cites a Russian-Latvian protocol governing cooperation between the two procuracies. Russia had to allow Parfenov to be extradited to Latvia, where investigations are proceeding. The fuss over the matter shows that some people want to make political capital out of the case. (Igor Lesechko) of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA asks what legal action has been taken against officials who unlawfully combined party and soviet posts and committed other irregularities. Stepankov says that the process is proceeding successfully. Responding to a question from (Lidiya Malach) of KURANTY about matters in the jurisdiction of the military procuracy, Stepankov says a document is in hand to bring the latter under the jurisdiction of the Russian procuracy.

In reply to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLET'S (Vadim Poekli), Stepankov talks about staff levels in the procuracy and answers a question about the investigation into the murder of Orthodox priest Aleksandr Men. He says that theories hinting at political motives are only a supposition. (Arkadiy Vaksberg) of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA asks about corruption. Stepankov says that he has been looking at how the problem is dealt with abroad. There are no simple answers or quick fixes and probably no "complete victory" is possible. A TRUD journalist asks how serious the threat of extortion and racketeering is to the success of economic reform. Stepankov replies that economic laws are preferable to punitive measures. The program's host then asks about the procurator's degree of independence, to which Stepankov replies that he is dependent on public opinion and the media.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA turns to the coup investigation. Stepankov says there is a lot of material involved and it is the sheer quantity of evidence and the time it will take to sift through it that is preventing him from acting as prosecutor at the trial, although he has not made a final decision. Stepankov says that no psychiatric examination has been made of the defendants. Then Stepankov reports on progress in the tank export deal case, saying that investigations will continue. Asked about an investigation of Zhirinovskiy over non-registration of his party, Stepankov says there is no arbitrary persecution involved.

In regard to the Vilnius "coup rehearsal" in January 1991, Stepankov says that this is being investigated in Lithuania. Torchinskiy then asks whether the August events really were an "operetta putsch." Stepankov says the facts indicate that the alleged plotters contemplated serious and violent criminal measures which must be viewed with gravity.

Nikolay Andreyev of IZVESTIYA asks who "raps your knuckles" when Stepankov gets close to the party's money? Stepankov replies: "This does not come from the structures of authority as they exist today. I think this is done occasionally by the mass media. We have the time, so I would like to do a reconstruction for you.

Today I think that we are faced with a certain phenomenon whereby people who have lost their power, including major KGB leaders, are still trying to influence our policy. A KGB operative is one example. At one time he worked in a rayon, in a town, and had his agents. A KGB agent is not the same sort of agent that the police have. He is not a thief or a stool pigeon or a drunk or some kind of vagabond. He is more likely to be a journalist or an engineer. This engineer or journalist rises along with the operative. Today he may be a newspaper editor. The engineer has become a factory director. Within a few years he becomes a major leader of some organization or enterprise or the top leader of an institute. As a result of our interference, many highly placed KGB officers have been deprived of their posts. Previously, all of these agents, all these sources of information lived completely at ease. When their protectors are deprived of their posts, they use these threads to tug and manipulate any way they like. As a result of this we started to get our knuckles rapped from the most unexpected places, because many who were party to the distribution of these funds, who spent the gold reserves contrary to the state interests, have dirty hands themselves. When I say that I am often accused of having said that the fate of those involved with the State Committee of the State of Emergency is predetermined, I mean their political fate. If we go along the democratic path, they cannot revive as politicians. Many people today are lurking in the shadows. Our work is absolutely not to their liking. Consequently, whole newspapers.... [changes thought] There is no representative here of the newspaper that works directly on instructions from the KGB and carries out this work to compromise the investigative group, among others. I am referring to the editor of ROSSIYA newspaper. I am referring to Drozdov, who is a former KGB officer. When I think that from the pages of his newspaper he tells us with alarm who takes money and what they take it for and who is undermining the authority of the procuracy, I think that he also is carrying out someone's tasks and is acting in someone's interests. That is what I and all of us must fear most of all today—that vast shadowy army of people who do not want all of our processes to progress and who will do everything to compromise us and to compromise you. I hope that the journalists who are here in the studio never fall into their hands and that their pens and their opinions are not manipulated in the struggle for our democratic foundations."

Stepankov is asked about criteria for economic crime. Asked what sentence he would recommend if he were prosecutor at the plotters' trial, he says the law provides guidelines, but that they will not be executed: "There can be no question of capital punishment. I think one should take account of the age and state of health. The role of Kryuchkov, of Yazov, and of Baklanov are very different from the role played by Starodubtsov." He notes that Akhromeyev, Gromov, and others were members of a headquarters set up alongside the emergency committee, but that charges were dropped against them due to lack of evidence.

'Russian Rebirth' Officers' Movement Founded

PM2401130092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 24 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[Irina Lobanovskaya report under the "Army" rubric: "In Boots and Uniform Stripes"]

[Text] Military uniform hardly comes as a surprise in the Central House of the Soviet Army. But even here the pants with stripes disappearing into boots and Cossack fur caps looked unusual and bizarre.

Erect, neat, and serious, they were all on their way to the founding conference of the movement "Officers for Russia's Rebirth." Another new movement?

Major General A. Sterligov, explaining the justification and need for the movement, said at the beginning of his speech that in a normal rule-of-law state politics is not the business of officers. In our case, however, the Army is politicized today. And this is inevitable...

True, it is necessary today to speak out about the servicemen's frankly unbearable, impossibly acute problems. The problem is the aggressiveness with which this is sometimes done, using that "national-independent-patriotic" tone—does this have much in common with the ultimately constructive discussion and encouraging decisions that were to be found at the Officers Assembly?...

The voluntary social-patriotic movement "Officers for Russia's Rebirth" has been founded. A draft appeal from the initiating group to officers which was circulated at the conference says: "The inability and unwillingness of the party-state military nomenklatura in the leadership of the Armed Forces, MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and security organs to formulate and adopt democratic laws on defense and security and implement military reform and sensible conversion and the leadership's constant desire to use the military to suppress actions by the people and overthrow by force the legitimate organs of power are rendering service in the Armed Forces, MVD, and security organs immoral, and also, in view of the lack of legal and social protection for personnel, futile and humiliating.

"The great bulk of officers are in effect excluded from resolving the problems of the army and the protection of order and the country's security. The leadership assigns to officers the role of blind and obedient executors of orders. It is no longer possible to adhere to neutral positions."

No longer possible. So now it is a question of methods...

League of Communists' Aims, Tasks Outlined

PM2301164392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with Candidate of Economic Sciences A. Prigarin, leader of the League of Communists, by correspondent Vladimir Markov under the rubric "In Parties

and Movements"; date, place not given: "On Whose Side Is the League of Communists?"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The new party's name is the League of Communists. What does it represent? What role can it play in sociopolitical life and among other socialist parties? Candidate of Economic Sciences A. Prigarin, one of the leaders of the League of Communists, talked about this with our correspondent.

[Markov] Aleksey Alekseyevich, time is moving on and the ban on the CPSU has not been lifted, but new communist and socialist organizations are being formed. At the moment they are small in number. Perhaps because people are finding it hard to decide with whom they should link their future, due to the shortage of information. How did the League of Communists come into being?

[Prigarin] The League of Communists began to develop on the basis of the Marxist Platform in the CPSU. Its supporters form the backbone of the new party, although other Communists and many non-party people have also joined. The Platform emerged at the beginning of 1990, when Communists began realizing that the policies of the CPSU leadership were theoretically shaky and unsound. At that time, we spoke out in favor of renewing CPSU ideology and policy on a scientific, Marxist-Leninist basis. Our autonomy and relative independence from the party apparatus helped us to recover our wits fairly quickly after the party's defeat in August: By 7-8 September, we had announced our intention to form a new party—the League of Communists.

[Markov] Could you define the League of Communists' place among other left-wing parties, please.

[Prigarin] Our closest neighbor "on the right" is the Socialist Party of the Working People, which is associated with A. Denisov and R. Medvedev. Many of its ideas are similar to ours, such as protecting the working people's social interests and striving for democracy. However, we find some of its other program principles unacceptable. Particularly its recognition of private, capitalist enterprise and the lawfulness of income thus generated. Consequently, in our view, that party belongs to the social democratic category, like the People's Party of Free Russia led by A. Rutskey.

Incidentally, our social democrats are fundamentally different from their West European counterparts. The latter are working (and not without success!) to gradually introduce socialist elements into established capitalist relations, while their Soviet counterparts are urging an initial (albeit partial) return to capitalism before moving ahead. Our neighbor "on the left" is the Russian Communist Workers' Party. Some of our aims—returning the country to a path of socialist development; opposing price rises and the possibility of a few people getting rich while the rest of the nation grows poor; restoring the power of the soviets; and preserving the country's

unity—essentially coincide with tasks which the Russian Communist Workers' Party has set itself.

[Markov] But there are probably differences?

[Prigarin] As far as most of the leaders of the Russian Communist Workers' Party are concerned, the ideal is a rigidly centralized system to run the country's economy and political life. But we believe that the old-style society has had its day. We empathize totally with the main slogan of the first perestroika years: "More democracy, more socialism!" In our view, the country needs a decentralized system of economic management, in which state planning is combined with a regulated market, and economic rights are transferred to labor collectives and regional organs. We favor the development of different forms of social ownership. We favor destatization but oppose privatization, in other words private ownership with the use of hired labor.

Finally, parties like Nina Andreyeva's All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks and the Worker-Peasant Socialist Party take an extremely left-wing, "humanized" Stalinist stand. Other parties are also being formed.

[Markov] Do you believe that the differences you have listed are sufficient to justify the formation of such a large number of communist parties?

[Prigarin] If socialist forces were in power, it would be perfectly natural to have a socialist multiparty system, within whose framework different parties would offer the people different ways and means of achieving the ultimate aim of a classless society.

I think this would have happened after the 29th CPSU Congress had it not been for the August coup, because several parties were beginning to emerge within the Communist Party. However, anticommunists are now in power. In these conditions, we urge the formation of a united communist party that will bring together all trends in the communist movement (although each will preserve its own point of view). Unfortunately, the leaders of the Russian Communist Workers' Party have not backed this appeal.

But unification must take place nevertheless. It could be achieved in three ways.

First, on the basis of joint action. For example, various communist movements have taken part in demonstrations in defense of social justice and working people's interests, regardless of who organized the action in question.

Second, by forming a bloc of communist organizations. In October last year, the League of Communists' organizational committee and the Communist Initiative Movement's Moscow council initiated the formation of a federation of communist movements and issued a joint document known as the "October Manifesto."

Third, (and this is perhaps the most important point) by preserving unity between the newly restored primary

territorial and professional communist organizations, even if the Communists active within them join different communist parties. Then unification will also proceed from below.

[Markov] How do you view the possibility of cooperating with social democratic and other parties? It is sometimes claimed in the press that the League of Communists is against any form of contact with people who have different ideas.

[Prigarin] Nothing of the kind. When Vice President A. Rutskoy, leader of the People's Party of Free Russia, speaks out against price liberalization, he is acting as a real defender of the people and we are allies in this matter. When the ultraradical, anticommunist newspaper GOSPODIN NAROD publishes material under the banner headline "We Did Not Fight the Communists So That Some Could Drive Around in Mercs While Others Die of Dystrophy," we are prepared to put our signatures to this. When the well-known satirist Grigoriy Gorin is outraged by the new authorities' antipatriotism and warns that we cannot humiliate the people for long without being punished, we are at one.

Communist Party Leader Predicts 'Civil War'

LD2701231792 Moscow TASS in English 2106 GMT
27 Jan 92

[Report by TASS correspondent Oleg Dziuba]

[Text] Vologda, Central Russia January 28 TASS—"We are not adherents of armed struggle. But if it is imposed on us, we shall have to accept it," General Secretary of the All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party Central Committee Nina Andreyeva told the local newspaper RUSSKIY SEVER.

According to Andreyeva, the only way to stop the coming civil war is to launch a united political strike demanding the resignation of "the bourgeois, nationalist and mafia structures currently at power." Andreyeva believed the activities of "the traitor Gorbachev and his accomplice Yeltsin fall under Article 64 ('high treason') of the Russian Federation criminal code."

Andreyeva said doubts about the party's political future due to lack of support among the younger generation should be dismissed as groundless. "The average age of our party members is 46 and new party organisations are being formed by (university and college) students," she said.

'Radical Democrats' Leader Interviewed

PM2401124592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Russian People's Deputy M.B. Chelnokov, co-coordinator of the "Radical Democrats" Faction, by Yuriy Makhrin under the "Viewpoint" rubric;

place, date not given: "This Is Revolutionary Empire Building"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] M.B. Chelnokov is a Russian people's deputy. He is co-coordinator of the "Radical Democrats" parliamentary faction. He asked PRAVDA to publish his point of view on economic reform and the policies of the Russian Federation's leadership.

[Makhrin] Mikhail Borisovich, PRAVDA has told its readers about Russian parliamentary factions like "Smena," "Rossiya," and "Democratic Russia"... But who are these radical democrats?

[Chelnokov] We put the word "radical" in the title in order to emphasize that our actions radically differ from the CPSU's policies. Now, following its ban, we are thinking of changing the name.

At the very beginning, the faction was an ardent supporter of Boris Nikolayevich. Before the elections we traveled all over Russia, from Moscow to the outlying regions, campaigning for him. At that time we considered him to be the country's most outstanding leader and tried to get Gorbachev to resign, seeing that he was trailing in the wake of events which is fatal for a politician.

When Boris Nikolayevich announced the decisive transition to the market at the last congress, he declared that price liberalization was necessary. Then Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar amplified that it was necessary to start the economic reform by immediately freeing prices, claiming that this was long overdue. It was no sooner said than done. But that which occurred was not a price liberalization but inflation, collapse. Shameless robbery of the people began.

The government set maximum limits for the price rise but no one takes any notice of them; on the contrary, a free-for-all has begun with regard to prices everywhere. Prices have gone crazy.

Price liberalization can only produce results when privatization has been implemented and legislation against monopolies has been enacted. This is the banal truth. But I am forced to repeat it, for I have the impression that our government does not understand it.

Gaydar was recently asked: "How can you monitor whether the ceiling for prices set by the government is being observed?" "You cannot," he replied, saying that the market should monitor them. People reminded him: There is no market yet. "There will be one," the vice premier assured us. Everyone was perplexed: Why promulgate a government resolution which is obviously unenforceable?

On the eve of liberalization—this is within quotation marks, of course—the Russian president and government proclaimed measures for people's social protection. It was envisaged that there would be price indexation. But we do not have this. Many categories of working

people receive the same wages. What is this if it is not an example of the people being defrauded?

Without competition, prices will continually spiral upwards. Can competition be created in our conditions? It is possible: By bringing in goods from abroad. Certainly not by selling off our mineral resources or by obtaining new credits. There is a third source which is free—secondary raw materials, scrap metal, timber submerged during transportation, slagheaps from ore production... Hundreds of Western firms are knocking on our door and asking for licenses to process all this wealth. In exchange they are ready to flood the stores with consumer goods. Our government, alas, is ignoring this opportunity to improve the situation in the consumer market.

The so-called liberalization has robbed the people. They are also being robbed through taxes: The 5-percent presidential tax has been replaced by a 28-percent tax. Duty on absolutely everything has been increased, as has the cost of transport. Russia is in a state of shock. And the talentless government is to blame. Its popularity rating is in the negative range, and its resignation is on the agenda.

It looks after people's well-being only verbally. But consider this fact. The West, basing its actions on pragmatic egoism and realizing that in this tragic situation here anything is possible right down to nuclear terrorism, has expressed the desire to help us. Free humanitarian aid is already coming in. The Russian Government decided to sell produce to the wholesalers.

[Makhrin] What kind of aid is this when it is not reaching the poor?

[Chelnokov] It is yet another example of the people being mocked and of the commercial mafia getting rich. One enterprise's leader tried to purchase "humanitarian" food from the wholesalers. But he was refused. It emerges that the Russian Government is allowing products to be sold for 25 percent more than they bought them for. On the other hand, there are no restrictions in the other CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] states, and our traders are turning their attention there in particular. It turns out that the aid destined for Russian people is not getting to them at all due to the government's unconsidered actions—neither to the poor nor to those on average income.

Our government is not honoring many of its promises.

[Makhrin] Let us remind readers: Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin heads it.

[Chelnokov] Yes, the time has come to speak bitter words of reproach to the person who heads this government—the Russian president. The people believed him and voted for him in the elections. But now, especially after the price "liberalization," many people are disappointed. All of them can see Yeltsin's mistakes and the time has come to make serious complaints to him.

Unfortunately, Yeltsin is beginning to repeat Gorbachev's mistakes. First and foremost delaying the resolution of the most important problems. Let us recall: After the putsch he could not form a government for a very long time. More than two months were lost, and this was at a crucial time.

Now to talk about cadres. The democrats reminded Gorbachev on more than one occasion: You can only rely on those who resist you. He ignored this truth. Yeltsin is making the same mistake. His apparatus, his entourage basically consists of former party nomenklatura members. I do not want to say that all people who belong to it are absolutely worthless. There are outstanding, businesslike people among them. But when the apparatus consists almost entirely of former nomenklatura members, this perplexes people: Can Yeltsin really not see any new capable people?

I fear that the delay in deciding to create a new currency will cost Russia dear.

Yeltsin's attitude toward Moscow also alarms us. At first there was no interference in affairs here, and then there was even indulgence for Popov's and Luzhkov's actions. Additional powers were granted to the mayor. Why? I consider that the congress made a great mistake by giving them to the president. It is necessary to learn to act within the framework of the law, we have had enough revolutionary expediency.

The situation in the capital is terrible. Popov is carrying out a privatization program which Muscovites have aptly dubbed grabitization [prikhvatizatsiya]. Only mafia members are becoming owners.

Back in the past the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a decision to implement an experiment in Moscow—to create a City Hall, prefectures... The Presidium exceeded its powers. But there are no decisions at all about creating a government for the capital. It is strange that it is ruled by a government which has absolutely no legal status. This is revolutionary empire building, as S. Shakhrai correctly put it.

In all rule-of-law states, mayors are heads of executive power. Popov handed over executive power to Luzhkov. A complete legal free-for-all!

It is a pity that it also holds sway at the highest levels of power. The Russian laws and Constitution are often broken. There is a congress resolution about the promulgation of presidential decrees. Yes, the congress gave him the right to adopt decrees even if they break the laws. Incidentally, I spoke out against this. But a procedure was actually instituted: Draft decrees are initially scrutinized in the Supreme Soviet's committees, and then at its sessions. This procedure is not being observed. Here the principle of revolutionary expediency holds sway instead of the principle of law.

In any rule-of-law state there is a system of monitoring the executive power. Russian laws also stipulate this.

Boris Nikolayevich wants to free himself of their burden. This will lead to his downfall. And to the situation in the country worsening. Which, incidentally, we are seeing.

Fears are growing in parliament in connection with the concentration of power in the president's hands.

[Makhrin] Then tell him about your fears!

[Chelnokov] Yeltsin has cut himself off from the deputies. We no longer have the opportunity to tell him personally everything I am saying now. The greater part of the people's elected representatives, whose views on life differ from Yeltsin's position, are not allowed in to see him. I also am already one of these people...

'Democratic Patriots' Prepare for Congress

924C0432A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 18 Jan 92 p 2

[Yevgeniy Krasnikov report: "In February Rutskoy Could Become Shadow Premier"; subtitled: "But Meanwhile He Is Busy Seeking Allies"]

[Text] Political opponents of the present Russian leadership in the camp of the democrats emerged some time back. After the Slav leaders had by concerted efforts demolished the Union and the Gaidar government had contrived simultaneously to fall out both with the customers and the entrepreneurs, having simultaneously raised prices and taxes, the opposition bloc of democrats and patriots began to take organizational shape. It has now acquired influential leaders and substantial sponsors.

The "stellar hour" of the democratic patriots could strike on 7 February. It is on this day that the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces of Russia is to open in the "Rossiya" movie theater. Work on organization of the congress has already begun.

At an enlarged meeting of activists of the "National Accord" bloc on 16 January the sponsors of the congress—the leaders of the Constitutional Democratic Party and the Russian Christian Democratic Union—discussed the concept of its work. Viktor Aksyuchits, co-chairman of the Russian Christian Democratic Movement, declared that the congress should become the constituent congress of a Union of Civic and Patriotic Forces or, at a minimum, elect the organizing committee of such a union. This new organization should be a mainstay of a government of national trust in its transformations of the national-state arrangement and the economy.

Who would head this government has yet to be announced from the platforms, but in the lobbies the participants in the meeting were more candid: Aleksandr Rutskoy. Several days ago representatives of the "National Accord" bloc visited the hospital ward where the vice president is. The details of the negotiations were

not divulged but some things have become known. Rutskoy will deliver a 40-minute program speech at the congress.

But the political movement which is taking shape intends to rely not only on the vice president. The parties organizing the congress have rather good ties to the new patriotic bourgeoisie and the entrepreneurs: the Merchants' Union and the Moscow Entrepreneurs' Convention and also the Russian Commodity-Raw Material Exchange, whose head manager, Konstantin Borovoy, has declared repeatedly his affection for the Constitutional Democratic Party.

The Democratic Party of Russia will not be taking part in the upcoming congress. Hounded by the democratic community following the anti-Yeltsin demonstration on 12 December and rent by internal divisions, the Democratic Party of Russia is out for the count and will hardly be in a position to engage in active political struggle any time soon. In addition, the economic allies of the Democratic Party of Russia—the Moscow Commodity Exchange and the Interregional Exchange Union—would hardly agree to take part in the creation of an association in conjunction with their main competitor—the Russian Commodity-Raw Material Exchange.

But the constitutional democrats and the Christian democrats apparently could acquire a powerful new ally—the "Free Russia" People's Party [FRPP]—in the organization of the congress. The contribution of the FRPP to the union of patriotic forces could be very substantial. It means not only a popular leader—the "stern Russian boy" Aleksandr Rutskoy—but also 80 members of parliament and commercial structures: the Social Development and Revival of Russia Foundation and the Congress of Russian Business Circles (in the founding of which the vice president took a very pronounced part).

In a word, the startup capital of the new political structure is not at all negligible. And the economic policy of the Russian Government will most likely only lend the democratic patriots greater popularity.

The only thing which could frustrate the fledgling union, perhaps, are internal divisions. Even now heated arguments are under way as to whether such organizations as the Russian National Union and such figures as Igor Sharafevich should be invited to the congress.

But the organizers of the congress are of quite an optimistic frame of mind as yet. Dmitriy Rogozin, co-chairman of the Constitutional Democratic Party, assured your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that there would be no rowdy speeches at the congress.

Patriotic Movements' Council Elects Chairman

PM2701150592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
27 Jan 92 p 3

[Aleksandr Pavlov report: "There Will Be No Fights"]

[Text] A meeting of the coordinating council of the people's patriotic movements and forces of Russia has been held.

It noted that society's main split today is not between conservatives and democrats, or between left- and right-wingers, but between forces which are continuing to indulge in destructive activity against all the foundations of Russian statehood, spirituality, science, and culture, and forces which uphold a single Russian statehood and the rights of all citizens in accordance with international legal acts and their own laws.

The coordinating council, at which all the main organizations advocating Russia's spiritual revival were represented, noted that Russians have had their fill of revolutions and civil wars, and need to achieve their goals solely by constitutional means and methods.

The chairman of the council was elected. He is Candidate of Philosophical Sciences G. Zyuganov.

Democratic Union Holds Sixth Congress

LD2501051992 Moscow TASS in English 1856 GMT
24 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent John Polischuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg January 24 TASS—Calls to liquidate the Soviet power, begin a peaceful democratic revolution and delegate all power to a constituent assembly were made today in a St. Petersburg office dealing with communal services. The sixth congress of the Democratic Union party was held. It was attended by 50 odd delegates from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Astrakhan and other cities. Valeria Novodvorskaya, one of the leaders of the Democratic Union, heads Moscow's representatives at the congress.

The Democratic Union formed several years ago has no programme of its own. The central coordination council was dissolved. Members of the Union vary in the assessments of the political situation in the country. But all of them demand rejecting the government's economic reform, doing away "with the totalitarian empire, disarming Soviet fascism and preparing for a new revolution".

However, there were few constructive proposals in the speeches. Members of the congress have no clear notion of Russia's future political institutions. They also debated if they should tolerate at the congress young people clad in black field shirts with images of skulls...

Socialists Seek 'Elementary Survival' Measures

PM2701140792 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 24 Jan 92 p 2

[A. Frolov report: "Socialists on Their Tactics"]

[Text] With its incompetence in implementing economic reform, the threats against "saboteurs," and the ongoing search for scapegoats in case of failure, the Russian

Government is itself driving working people toward strikes, rallies, and extremist protest actions. We are against such methods in conditions of impending catastrophe, we favor a civilized and democratic course of social transformations. For our part, we will do everything to avert a social explosion but, should it nevertheless happen, we will be together with the people.

This was announced at a news conference held by L. Vartazarova, A. Maltsev, R. Medvedev, and G. Sklyar, cochairmen of the Socialist Party of Working People.

In their opinion, today we should no longer be talking about economic stability but about the task of the country's and the people's elementary survival. To tackle it, the party proposes urgent measures to provide the population, above all children, with guaranteed (ration) supplies of food and essential goods; to stimulate productive rather than speculative activity, which requires a reduction of value added tax; and finally, to implement monetary confiscation reform which does not affect citizens' labor savings. To implement the said measures, it is necessary to return to centralized management of the economy for a time. At the same time no privatization programs should be put into effect until they have been approved by local soviets.

Gaydar Interviewed on Economic Reform Progress

PM2401144592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jan 92 p 1

[Interview with Russian Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar by I. Savvateyeva; place, date not given: "Yegor Gaydar: 'Market Elements Are Raging As Scheduled'"]

[Text] [Savvateyeva] Yegor Timurovich, one question currently being asked by everyone: Where is the promised abundance?

[Gaydar] Nobody promised abundance within two weeks. Filling stores with goods is a gradual process. Think back on what the store shelves were like 28 December, look at what they are today, and you will notice quite serious changes. The reform is going according to our plans.

[Savvateyeva] There is room for doubt in your last remark. I recall that the forecast was for a two-, three-, or even fourfold price increase. At any rate, it would seem that nobody anticipated what actually happened. You are being accused of, if you will pardon the expression, frivolity: You left the price formation process to its own devices without laying in commodity stocks in advance of liberalization.

[Gaydar] Let me say something on the subject of forecasts. Imagine what would have happened had the government declared that prices would increase 20 times over! The leap which occurred was more or less what we expected in fact. We expected it because it was obvious that economic managers were expecting price-hike scales similar to those which were introduced for fuel and

energy sources. Likewise, they were expecting serious initial difficulties in selling products at these prices. Of course, it would have been good to have avoided them by building up substantial stocks of goods beforehand, as our critics will tell us. But this can be done when the economy is manageable and more or less stable. We, however, had to start up the market mechanism first, and only then build up stocks of goods.

[Savvateyeva] But is it not likely that prices would have been far lower if privatization—if only in trade—had begun before liberalization?

[Gaydar] Privatization is a huge and serious task which takes years. In Britain, for example, Margaret Thatcher implemented a massive destatization program all through the eighties. In the course of 10 years she privatized approximately one-tenth of state property. In Poland, the team led by Balcerowicz started preparing for privatization as of 1989 and it was not until 1991 that signs of success started to appear. However, this does not mean that we should privatize slowly. We are going as fast as we can. I think that serious results in the destatization of trade will be achieved within the first six months of this year. The basic normative acts on privatization will be issued 24-25 January.

[Savvateyeva] When will people finally be able to obtain land?

[Gaydar] The organs intended to deal with reorganizing kolkhozes and sovkhoses should be formed by 1 March. Thus, all the legal prerequisites for allocating land will be in place by then.

[Savvateyeva] Yegor Timurovich, entrepreneurs are complaining that you have set crushing taxes on profits. Are you not afraid that, in a situation where the taxation system has completely crumbled and practically no taxes are being collected, you could end up receiving even less than what you could have received if you had set lower taxes? In exchange, you will gain an accelerated curtailment of output...

[Gaydar] First of all, to say that no taxes are being collected would be an exaggeration. Until very recently, the problems arising in the taxation system were blamed on the complexity of the taxation policy. After all, it is well known that by introducing a lot of taxes you are making it easier to evade them. The advantage of our taxation policy is that it is simple. The number of taxes has been reduced to a minimum. And the tax on profits which you mentioned has not yet crossed the boundary beyond which it might apply the brakes on the development of production. Another tax—the value added tax—which, in the version we have adopted, is one of the simplest of taxes. Naturally, there are possibilities to evade any tax. But in the specific case of value added tax, these possibilities are fairly limited.

[Savvateyeva] Your quite rigid taxation policy was prompted, as you constantly stress, by the need to

supplement the budget. But there are, after all, other ways to do this: Selling off incomplete construction projects, conversion...

[Gaydar] Undoubtedly. A program for selling incomplete production projects has been elaborated by us. We will be able to put them on the market during the first six months. Potential buyers are already showing substantial interest in many projects. As for conversion, we simply forced the majority of defense industry enterprises to adopt it by ceasing to finance them. However, the question is to what extent will conversion be effective. We have asked enterprises to submit their own conversion programs, and we will finance the most attractive ones.

[Savvateyeva] Tell me, how radical are your plans to reorganize military production? Not so long ago, I talked to Vasily Selyunin, who suggested halting it altogether.

[Gaydar] What we are doing is equally radical. Actually, we will not only be shutting down production units which produce spare parts for equipment currently in use, but even those which would actually be cheaper to operate than to close. On the whole, we believe that before long the state will have no money for arms.

[Savvateyeva] Yegor Timurovich, you have also been criticized for making the stabilization of the budget and the successful implementation of monetary policy aims in themselves. For doing nothing to cure our economy's main disease—the slump in production volumes.

[Gaydar] But I do not believe that an increase in production volumes is our main aim. For many years, output in our country grew—and quite quickly at that—but the economy drifted toward inevitable collapse. People's living conditions steadily worsened because we had resource-wasteful production which is generally short-sighted. Today, the aim is different: To create a modern, efficient, market-oriented economy—an economy for people. No amount of increase in, say, the output of tanks, aircraft, armored vehicles, or even self-propelled excavators is going to bring greater happiness to the people. It is a different matter that, in time, a sensible financial policy should create all the prerequisites for structural perestroika and economic growth.

[Savvateyeva] But you have to agree that the slump in output volumes in several basic sectors today looks threatening. Reports about imminent strikes at mines and downtime at rolling mills are reminiscent of military dispatches...

[Gaydar] Yes, the problems with coking coal and metals are very acute. Supplies of these resources to industry may be disrupted.

[Savvateyeva] Does that mean similar disruptions are also possible in heat and power supplies to ordinary consumers? Tell me, are we on the brink of a fuel and energy crisis?

[Gaydar] Provided there are no major social disturbances, there should be no general energy crisis because there has been a marked decline of energy consumption as a result of the general slump in production and the cutback in military equipment output.

Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient means to resolve the problems of fuel and metals. After all, the main option here is payment in freely convertible currency. Alas, we do not have enough of it. Last year, a promise was made to miners that they will be able to sell one-third of all output outside the state order parameters. We proposed that they sell this coal for hard currency within the country. A lot will depend on whether we can reach agreement. If we cannot, then we will be forced to buy this output on the foreign market.

[Savvateyeva] There is one thing the I simply cannot understand: On the one hand, it is common knowledge that circulating a foreign state's currency on the territory of another country is an unacceptably harmful practice. Yeltsin even issued a special decree banning all settlements in freely convertible currency as of July 1992. At the same time, you have announced that the government itself is prepared to switch to settlements in foreign currency. Where is the logic?

[Gaydar] Of course, we hope to overcome the economy's dollarization. At the same time we realize that, given today's currency instability, it is virtually impossible to achieve this through a single prohibitive decree. Everything will depend on how effective our credit, finance, and monetary policy turns out to be. We have to be able to bring down today's crazy dollar exchange rate.

[Savvateyeva] But what will the total couponization in the Ukraine do for the Russian monetary system?

[Gaydar] This will lead to a perceptible increase in Russia's monetary mass. Therefore, we will regulate non-cash payments from the Ukraine.

But in general, our basic policy consists of trying to save the current Union ruble, whatever the cost. Ultimately, we are prepared to continue struggling for the Union ruble to become the Russian ruble. Generally speaking, disorder and lack of control in relations with former republics represent one of the most serious obstacles on the road to consistent reforms, and an additional and very unpleasant risk factor.

Paper Reports Reforms in 'Grave Danger'

LD2501051592 Moscow TASS in English 1149 GMT
24 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—"Bureaucratic underground seizes control over the Russian president's administration", under this title today's issue of the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" publishes excerpts from an analytical note, prepared for Boris Yeltsin by the

independent research centre "RF-Politics". The newspaper draws the conclusion from these documents that the reform is in grave danger.

The document reports on the growing resistance to the policy of reforms put up by former bureaucratic structures, the so-called nomenclature, which have, in fact, wormed their way into the Russian president's entourage. It mentions people, who come from former party and government bodies, their organisational connections and steps to counteract the efforts of the country's leadership.

The newspaper points out among the political and social groups, wishing to thwart the government's efforts, such forces as the military-industrial complex, the local bureaucracy, "politicians united in the Russian Democratic Movement", some deputies of the Supreme Soviet and local councils.

Referring to information received from parliamentary sources, the note claims that "underground regional committees of the communist Party of the Soviet Union are functioning illegally in several regions of Russia". Forces that are close to the underground communist leadership continue to control the largest publications.

"One gets the impression that a race for time is now under way. Its purpose is to topple the government as quickly as possible and replace it by politicians suiting the old bureaucracy," the document notes.

Economists View Reform, CIS Prospects

LD2601060792 Moscow TASS in English 1711 GMT
25 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—"It was not a liberalisation, but an ordinary price rise, similar to what we have had on many occasions from the Khrushchev to the Pavlov reforms," says Sergey Zverev, an expert from the Centre of Economic and Political Studies headed by Grigory Yavlinskiy.

He and some other Russian economists told MEGAPOLIS-EXPRESS what, in their opinion, will be the result of the January 2 liberalisation of prices. Their forecasts are published in the latest issue of this weekly.

"A deficit-free budget will collapse as early as in January or February, and we shall dash headlong into a period of hyperinflation. But it is the political aspect which is the most unpleasant one: The Commonwealth of Independent States will slowly die," Zverev continued.

"We are facing the prospect of stagflation and not just inflation, in other words, the depreciation of the rouble will go together with the falling-off of production in all spheres of economy. If within three months the government does not find ways of giving an impetus to private initiative, to enterprises working for the consumer market, Yegor Gaydar and his team will have to go," said Andrey Sizov, chairman of the Sovekon Association.

Yevgeniy Saburov, former deputy prime minister in the Ivan Silayev government who is now head of the Economic Research Centre, believes that liberalisation of prices should be preceded by privatisation and the undermining of the monopoly position of some enterprises.

Vasily Selyunin, a well-known economist and publicist who took part in the discussion, focused his attention on the problem of the Russian rouble. In his opinion, the length of the shock period depends on how quickly Russia will manage to consolidate its currency.

However, Leonid Nevzlin, first deputy chairman of the board of directors of Menatep, a major financial association, defends the present Russian Government. He believes it is not taking any steps which are not market-oriented. Taxes and the loss of pace in the sphere of privatisation "can be regarded as its mistakes, but not as the reason for resignation", he stressed.

Deputy Minister Sees 6-7 Million Unemployed

LD2701215392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Oostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Andrey Shapovalyants, Russia's deputy minister of the economy, has reported that, even by the most optimistic estimates, unemployment this year will touch 6 to 7 million.

If the market mechanism does not yield results, then, according to the deputy minister, 15 to 20 million people will be out of work, i.e. virtually one-quarter of Russia's working population.

Employment Committee Gives 'Gloomy' Forecast

LD2401181292 Moscow TASS in English 1253 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Ignatiev]

[Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—The number of unemployed in Russia may reach 7-8 million people by next October, according to Fyodor Prokopov, chairman of the Russian Employment Committee.

At present there are 60 thousand registered unemployed, 70 per cent of them are women, Prokopov said at a press conference on Friday [24 January], adding his Employment Committee has received 840 thousands applications for jobs of late.

Prokopov's gloomy forecasts are based on the Polish experience of reforms, which resulted in a sharp growth of unemployment.

The Employment Committee opened two thousand offices throughout Russia and 20 in Moscow. The opening of personnel retraining centres are also on the agenda.

The level of unemployment will stop growing in Russia by the middle of 1993. It will comprise five per cent of the total manpower, which corresponds to the unemployment rate in developed countries, according to Prokopov.

Government Develops 'Acute Cash Shortage'

Prices, Incomes To Blame

PM2801101392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, TASS roundup: "The Misfortune Is Not in Having Money, But in the Quantity You Have"]

[Text] The government has developed an acute cash shortage. This has been caused by rising prices and the increase of the population's money incomes. A Russian State Committee for Statistics report testifies that a slowing down in the turnover rate of bank notes as a result of the population holding on to significant amounts has at times exacerbated the shortage of money.

The amount by which people's money incomes exceeded their spending last year reached 87.1 billion rubles [R] as opposed to R19.2 in 1990. As of the end of December, the population held R161.9 billion in cash on hand.

Savings Bank Aide Cited

PM2401162792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with O.V. Yashon, first vice president of the Russian Savings Bank, by Nikolay Musiyenko; place, date not given: "The People Are Sitting On Millions"]

[Text] [Musiyenko] Oleg Vladimirovich, economists to a man claim that the population has accumulated too much money. Is that true?

[Musiyenko] Yes, there is much more money around than goods to buy. But if we embark in earnest on the privatization of the means of production, there might even turn out to be too little money. After all, the average deposit in Russian savings banks barely exceeds 2,000 rubles [R]. Although some of our customers have several savings books. Nonetheless, the talk of excessive savings is unrealistic, in my view.

[Musiyenko] How did the depositors react to the price boom after the New Year? Did they rush to withdraw their money?

[Yashon] On the contrary, deposits have increased. In Moscow, for example, we took in an extra R1 billion or so between 3 and 20 January—six times as much as in the corresponding period last year. The trend is the same in other regions. Perhaps the persistent rumors that there would soon be a monetary reform played a part.

[Musiyenko] Are they just rumors?

[Yashin] Of course. The economic prerequisites for a confiscation-style reform do not exist at the moment. It would require massive material expenditure, but in no way would it revive the economy. The main task at the moment is not to play around with finances, swapping one lot of paper for another, but to enable every enterprise to develop and work to the full, to sell its products freely in the market, and to pay its collective a proper wage. When competition between commodity producers develops, prices are bound to go down.

[Musiienko] But prices are changing in only one direction at the moment. People's savings are depreciating before their very eyes. Given such an inflation rate, the annual rates of interest for savings bank customers are risible...

[Yashin] You are right. So I want to say that we raised the interest rates as of 1 January. We now pay 15 percent annual interest on fixed-term deposits, if kept for over five years, and 3 percent on demand deposits. If inflation is not halted, then by year's end the interest ceiling will have to be raised even higher.

[Musiienko] How do you fund the rate changes?

[Yashin] They are financed entirely by bank revenue. We were thus forced to raise the rate of interest on the credit we provide to 20 percent at the same time. But it is mainly industrial and other enterprises that borrow money from us through commercial banks and use these resources to develop production. In order to compensate for the extra costs, they will naturally raise the prices of their goods even higher, and will therefore only aggravate inflation.

[Musiienko] But there is still talk about freezing deposits. These rumors are encouraged by the recently introduced restrictions on the issuing of cash in savings banks.

[Yashin] We believe, and there is sympathy for our position both in the Russian Central Bank and in the government, that there is no way deposits can be frozen, because the state would lose more than it gains. People would then simply dispense with the services of the Savings Bank, start keeping their money in "money boxes," or, worse still, dash off and convert it into goods irrespective of whether they need them or not. Stores would be cleaned out completely then.

As for restrictions on the withdrawal of cash from accounts, they are temporary and are due to one reason alone—the shortage of bank notes as a result of the sharp rise in prices and in the population's incomes. Indeed, a significant proportion of the money—pay, pensions, kolkhoz members' earnings from agricultural products—goes straight into Savings Bank establishments without any cash changing hands. Therefore, at the end of last year, we were actually paying out, and are still paying out no more than R5,000 in a number of regions. If you need to take out more, you will receive the money in the form of checks, a checkbook, or the transfer of the required

sum to the account of the store where a particular commodity is to be acquired. No one will be denied this facility.

When the R200 and R500 notes come into circulation the cash problem will not be as acute, and when checks and other forms of non-cash payment come to be extensively used the problem will vanish altogether.

[Musiienko] It is well known that 40 percent compensation was credited last April to deposits in connection with the "Pavlovian" price increases. When can it be used?

[Yashin] The compensation, except for R200 per savings book added to the deposit balance and drawable at any time, is paid into special accounts and will be paid out beginning in April 1994, including 7 percent interest for last year and, from 1 January, on the basis of 10 percent annual interest. But if our depositor is buying a car, a garden plot, housing, furniture, or labor collective shares, we will release special account funds for him right now, if he provides the relevant confirmation. The Russian Savings Bank Board of Directors will consider the question of releasing all the compensation funds at one of its meetings in the very near future.

[Musiienko] Until recently the Russian Savings Bank was part of the USSR Savings Bank system. What is your present relationship with colleagues from the now independent states?

[Yashin] We are cooperating the way we used to cooperate. Recently we set up an association of banks which will tackle all questions connected with coordinating their activities. We are also concluding bilateral agreements with neighbors. We will not break off ties with them even if they switch to their own national currencies.

However, it has to be said that certificates, checks, and letters of credit issued outside a particular republic cannot be cashed at the moment. Not because we have fallen out, but again because of the shortage of cash. I hope these restrictions will be lifted very soon. Noncash transactions are going on as before.

[Musiienko] Is it true that now it is possible to freely change rubles for hard currency, and vice versa in your bank's establishments?

[Yashin] We have obtained a license for such transactions from the Russian Central Bank and all our establishments have started preparing for this work. Customers are already able to avail themselves of this service in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kamchatka, and a number of other regions. We set the exchange rate ourselves. At the moment we buy \$1 for R111 and sell it for R121.10. But at the moment hard currency is sold only to people traveling abroad, up to a maximum of \$200.

Incidentally, we are now not only exchanging money, but are also accepting payments in hard currency into individual accounts without asking where it came from, and are paying interest.

[Musiyyenko] What other new types of service are you offering?

[Yashin] Henceforth, anyone, and not just corporate bodies, as was the case in the past, can, if he wishes, obtain credit for any immediate needs. But this is not a cheap pleasure—the annual rate of interest is at least 20 percent.

[Musiyyenko] Final question. Many of your customers are unhappy about having to spend ages waiting in line. Is this problem being tackled?

[Yashin] Of course. But not as quickly as we would like, unfortunately. After all, we have more than 40,000 branches, and in a number of places they are still using the abacus—they do not even have basic adding machines, let alone personal computers. We have not only to equip all banking establishments with modern technology, but also to expand the network and create a Savings Bank computer center. All this requires major expenditure, including hard currency, at a time when our revenue is small.

Cash Demand 'Unsatisfied'

LD2401181392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] For the first half of January, the average amount of earnings deposited each day with the bank by retailers is down 22 percent from the same period last year, reports Aleksandr Zinchenko, a Russian Central Bank representative. According to him, this accounts for the fact that demand for ready cash in Russia still remains unsatisfied. In many places, wages and pensions are paid late. Intensive printing of new money has failed to rescue the situation.

Monetary Reform 'Necessary'

PM2801100992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian: 25 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, TASS roundup: "Central Bank Representative: Both Rubles and Checkbooks"]

[Text] The shortage of cash in banks and on hand in the Altay has gotten near the 1 billion mark. In order to ease the tension, 300 million rubles have been brought here. According to Aleksandr Argunov, chief of the Russian Central Bank Main Administration, the next installment of incoming money will be in February. It is also expected that checkbooks will be introduced on a broader scale.

In reply to a question about the possibility of implementing monetary reform, Aleksandr Argunov said that he does not possess official figures in this respect, but in his opinion the reform is necessary and most likely will be on the basis of confiscation.

Government Economist Holds News Conference

Cited on Foreign Trade, Cooperation

LD2701223792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1810 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Officials of the Russian Government's foreign trade committee, speaking at a news conference in Moscow, have said the government's economic policy towards the Western countries and the former Soviet republics was part of its current economic recovery plan. More on this from our reporter.

It is more or less clear as far as Western countries are concerned, having convertible currency they are in no hurry to invest in the Russian economy, preferring instead to abide by small financial infusions or humanitarian aid, a position which is both logical and economically viable. However, the head of the chief economic department, Mr. Yuriy Petrov, says the main priority now is how to arrange economic cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

This is all the more important if the import-export structure of trade with Western countries is set against that with the former Soviet republics. Mr. Petrov quoted as one example the situation with the export of Russia's crude oil, the republic's main foreign exchange earner. He said Russia was planning to export about 50 million tonnes of crude oil to other countries this year but twice as much to Commonwealth states. Mr. Petrov said Russia would be selling at a loss if it traded with the former Soviet republics at currently subsidized oil prices. However, he pointed out that many of their exports to Russia were below world prices and that it was hard to build fair trade at a time when prices were all wrong.

Mr. Petrov, meanwhile, said the disruption of trade would be disastrous to all the republics. He called for bilateral trade at market prices and a fair balance of payments.

The long-awaited flow of Western commodities is being delayed and not least because of the disagreement between Commonwealth countries on how the aid should be distributed. For their part the Western countries complain about political instability and financial chaos in the former Soviet republics.

All of this is true but Mr. Petrov believes other ways can be used for commodity imports ahead of the Western aid. Mr. Petrov complains about inadequate imports of food and medical supplies from East European countries such as Hungary, Poland, and Bulgaria because of controversy over payment. In his view the settling of accounts in hard currency between former Comecon countries was a mistake and that imports from those countries could be increased by simplifying the procedure with account settling made in rubles or forints.

The idea seems to be viable given that East Europeans have the same problem in trade with their Western

counterparts. It would seem meeting each other and opening cooperation was worth it.

Ruble Exchange Rate To Rise

*LD2801001692 Moscow TASS in English
1331 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Report by TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—The market exchange rate of the rouble to the dollar will be going up within the next few weeks, Yuri Petrov, head of the economic section of the Russian Governmental Committee for Foreign Economic Ties, said at a news conference on Monday [27 January].

Russian enterprises will be selling at auction part of their hard currency profits from exports within the next few weeks, Petrov explained.

He said the Russian Central Bank's inability to work out a firm money and credit policy thwarts the Russian Government's plan to make the rouble convertible. The problem is also compounded by the fact that too many banks in the Commonwealth states have the right to issue credits.

Speaking on the results of Russia's foreign economic activities in 1991, Petrov said "they are not as bad as they could be" but refused to give specific figures.

He said Russia plans to sell about 50 million tonnes of oil to other countries and twice as much to the Commonwealth states in 1992.

"The government is now assessing the economic efficiency of such supplies," Petrov said, adding it may also increase oil exports in 1992.

Oil Export Figures Given

*OW2801022192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1915 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is going to export 47 million tons of crude oil and petroleum products beyond the bounds of the former USSR this year. Russia's export to the member countries of the Commonwealth in 1992 will total 100 million tons, the chief of a department at Russia's Committee for External Economic Ties Yuriy Petrov has told a news conference in Moscow.

About export duties Petrov said that the government was going to reduce the duties imposed on some goods. The Russian government hopes that export duties will account for 197 billion rubles of Russia's budget this year.

Petrov said that in case of clearing trade between Russia and the firms of those countries who have no convertible currency Russia may refuse to accept payment in rubles

obtained through transactions with other CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries. Petrov said the reason for that was unbridled emission of cash by all national and central banks of the Commonwealth.

Gradual Release of Energy Prices Planned

*LD2501145392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1325 GMT 24 Jan 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] The Russian Government plans a gradual release of prices for energy-carriers, including coal. This was reported by head of the Kemerovo Administration Press Service Konstantin Kreknin following Igor Prokudin, first deputy head of the Administration, returning from Moscow with the letters endorsed by President Boris Yeltsin. According to Kreknin, Yeltsin's meeting with the Kuzbass delegation on January 22 lasted twice as long as had been planned and was quite efficient. The Russian president accepted the Kuzbass delegation's proposal on elaborating a mechanism of state subsidies for the wage fund of coal industry enterprises, which will enable miners' wages to be raised to what might be regarded as an acceptable level. Specific work on elaborating the mechanism is being done, at the president's instruction, by a special commission of the Russian Government, which Igor Prokudin is a member of.

The question of drafting a program of the Kuzbass coal complex development was also discussed at the meeting, Kreknin said, accepting the delegation's proposal on joint work with specialists from the Hoover Institute (USA). Kreknin also said Yeltsin agreed to representatives' of both the Independent Union of Miners and the Federation of Independent Unions of Russia participation in elaborating a general tariff agreement. This work began on January 22.

The Russian president signed a resolution on opening a credit line of the Italian firm FATA stipulating investments and goods in Kuzbass worth US [\$] 200 million. Closing the meeting Yeltsin suggested to head of the Kuzbass Administration Mikhail Kisliuk another meeting on January 23.

Regional Affairs

Khasbulatov on Working Tour of Yakutia

Leaders Criticize Khasbulatov

*LD2701163592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0520 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[By special correspondent Andrey Trapeznikov]

[Text] Good day. A meeting took place this morning in the capital of the republic between Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the Russian parliament, and the leadership of the city soviet and local administration. Ruslan Khasbulatov then met with the leaders of the diamond, gold,

coal, gas, power engineering branches of the economy of Yakutia as well as with geologists in the Zoloto Yakutii concern.

By throwing Yakutia to the mercy of fate in the conditions of economic chaos, Russia is biting the hand that feeds it. This is how one can formulate the general message of the speeches made by local leaders. Yakutia's contribution to the Russian economy today cannot be substituted by anything else. At the same time, the central government is not showing any desire to resolve the problems of the republic. In such conditions, the trade union of the mining-metallurgical workers of Russia, the trade union of the Yakutiametal concern, gave Ruslan Khasbulatov an ultimatum: If their demands are not satisfied, the working collectives will go on strike and will pay wages to their staff with precious metals. They will stop delivering metals to the state and will begin to sell, at their own discretion, precious metals to any partner both within the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] as well as to those beyond its borders.

The demands are absolutely justified. The head of the Russian Government himself agreed to all this. They boil down to essential things: real prices for gold should rise, a decision should be made to construct accommodations in the central regions for those who have worked for a long time in the north, citizens of the former Soviet republics who work in Yakutia should be given guarantees that they will get citizenship of the member states of the CIS, and so on.

It is worth mentioning that the demands of the collectives are supported by the Yakutian leadership. Mikhail Nikolayev, the first nationwide elected president of the republic, said at the meeting that the Russian executive bodies continue, to a great extent, the extortionate policies of the former Union in relation to the national border regions by maintaining pirate-like tax and credit policies. He announced that he has decided not to hand over taxes that have been collected to the Russian budget, because the position in which the inhabitants of the republic find themselves is critical at present and this may lead to an explosion of discontent.

Those who spoke made many claims against the government of Russia for its shortsighted policies as well as its failure to carry out President Yeltsin's decrees and decisions adopted by the Russian parliament. Ruslan Khasbulatov was subjected to persistent requests.

Ruslan Khasbulatov took the floor and gave his word to the enterprises that he will do everything in his power to protect the republic against ruin and to render help to its inhabitants.

As for the specific problems of relations between Russia and Yakutia, they will be discussed during the talks between the government delegations of the two republics that will take place on 7-8 February 1992.

This is the information I have so far.

[Announcer] Andrey, could you please tell us whether Khasbulatov voiced any traditional criticism against the Russian Government?

[Trapeznikov] No sharp criticism was voiced, as happened previously after his visit to Ryazan. On the contrary, he said that the Russian executive bodies are conducting a more balanced and well-targeted policy, and he really tried to build a bridge between the Russian and the Yakutian Governments.

Regional 'Peculiarities' Ignored

LD2701202692 Moscow TASS in English
1958 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By special correspondent Vasily Titov]

[Text] Yakutsk January 27 TASS—The situation that is taking shape in the economy of Russia and social tension connected with the price rise arouse the Russian parliament's serious concern, Russian parliament chief Ruslan Khasbulatov said today during a meeting with the directors of mining enterprises of Yakutia, an autonomous republic in Russia's northeast. He is now making a working tour of Yakutia's towns.

Economic reforms in the republic are in need of serious adjustments, and the Presidium of the Russian parliament is now busy preparing appropriate proposals, Khasbulatov said.

The situation should not be allowed to develop to an extent when it would run utterly out of control and when the very idea of reforms would be rejected by the majority of the population, he emphasised.

Khasbulatov believes that while effecting reforms, the present government of Russia does not fully take into account the peculiarities of regions and its actions are at times of precipitate nature.

The complex state of affairs at the mining enterprises of Yakutia was discussed during the meeting. The growth of prices of machinery and technical means supplied to the region—which made it virtually impossible to reequip a number of enterprises and repair malfunctioning equipment—the rising cost of fuel and energy carriers and the tense social atmosphere puts the enterprises of the ore-mining sector on the verge of utter ruin.

Khasbulatov believes that a solution to these problems can be promoted by the expansion of Yakutia's economic independence and giving it the right to independently manage part of diamonds and precious metals mined on its territory.

All these questions will be fully decided upon when an economic agreement between Russia and Yakutia is concluded. Work on such an agreement will begin in Moscow on February 7, he said.

On Tuesday [28 January] the Russian parliament chief is to address the members of Yakutia's parliament.

Need for 'Drastic Action'

PM2701165392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 27 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Misfortunes of the Diamond Storehouse"]

[Text] The first day of Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov's working visit to Yakutia began yesterday with a trip to the factory at the Udachnyy mining and processing combine. This enterprise is one of the world's largest diamond mining enterprises—it provides over 80 percent of Russia's annual diamond total.

Difficulties with technical equipment and the reequipping of the industry, the serious financial situation, and the loss of skilled cadres—this is a far from complete list of the complex problems that workers in the diamond mining sector are facing. Acute social tension can be added to the purely production-related problems. Just one example: During the incomplete month since the beginning of the year, over 8,000 applications by migrants for containers have piled up in the association's transport service (there were around 2,000 applications during the whole of 1991).

Many people in Yakutia associate the possibility of resolving the accumulated problems with being granted the right to utilize part of the extracted diamond output. The head of the Russian parliament expressed the same opinion. "Yakutia is the Russian state's diamond storehouse," he said during a short conversation with journalists following his visit to the factory. "We must make sure that people who work and live here also get something out of this storehouse. Drastic action needs to be taken to utilize the wealth that is located here to really improve the lives of people who live in these difficult conditions," he added.

After he had visited the factory, Ruslan Khasbulatov made a trip to the Evenki village of Eyik, where he met the local inhabitants. Following a visit to the "diamond capital"—Mirnyy—the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet is to leave for Yakutsk.

Ships Off Murmansk Storing Nuclear Waste

LD2701174392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT
27 Jan 92

["Novosti" report by Lidya Obukhova from Murmansk]

[Text] [Video shows ships standing at anchor, shots of port, workshops] A radiation detector on these ships, standing two kilometres from Murmansk, as you can see, shows 700 microroentgens per hour. That is 60 times higher than the normal radiation background, which means a direct threat to life. In any other country, 700 microroentgens per hour would mean a national outcry,

but here in Murmansk, where there are 500,000 inhabitants, not counting the settlements on the other side of the Kola Gulf, it's an everyday phenomenon.

In the oblast health service no one deals with the effects of nuclear radiation on humans. The ships Imandra, Lotta, and Serebryanka have been turned into floating nuclear waste stores. But as has recently become apparent, these vessels are just a transit point for radiation materials. It has emerged that in the past, dangerous cargo was simply dumped in the open sea. Not all of the dumping regions have yet been established. Only one dumping point is known precisely so far—the Kara Sea, off Novaya Zemlya.

Here is another sensation: They are trying to burn nuclear waste right here, by the anchorage. This is done in technological workshops used for repairing nuclear ice-breakers. The people of Murmansk are not told that such lethal substances are escaping into the atmosphere of the Kola peninsula, and therefore, the whole of northern Europe. The management of the ice-breaker fleet have a simple explanation for their actions—there is nowhere to store the nuclear waste. It clutters all the repair workshops in sacks and cylinders. And what is the radiation here? Local instruments show surprisingly stable readings!

'Thousands' in Kaliningrad Protest Prices, Wages

LD2701220192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] A rally held to protest price rises attracted thousands of Kaliningrad inhabitants on 27 January. Speakers expressed their dissatisfaction with the cost of living and with the delays in the payment of wages, grants, rents, and benefits. They demanded wage increases.

The event was not free of extreme incidents: Some veterans called for a dictatorship of the proletariat, seeing democrats off, and returning to the good old times of stagnation. The Russian leadership got it in the neck at the rally—in the view of the rally's participants, the government has brought Russia to poverty and humiliation. True, the resolution that was adopted was couched in calmer language and contained only economic demands.

Four Kuril Ports To Become International

OW2801023892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1618 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Government has accepted a proposal by the Sakhalin regional council that the Kurilsk, Severo-Kurilsk, Yuzhno-Kurilsk and Krabozavodsky ports of the Sakhalin region should service international freight and passenger ships. It also decided to open four border checkpoints there.

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk To Increase Troops

LD2501222492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 2100 GMT 22 Jan 92

[By correspondent Oleg Bondarenko]

[Text] South Sakhalin plans to increase the number of troops. Because of the reductions that are taking place on the mainland, some of the soldiers and officers will be redeployed to Dolinskiy Rayon of Sakhalin Oblast. This is reported in the newspaper SVOBODNYI SAKHALIN. For now, only one regiment of 2,000 servicemen is concerned. The point of the story is the fact that talks on a peace treaty are continuing between Russia and Japan. The decision to redeploy the troops may aggravate the situation to a certain degree.

Komi Oil Workers Threaten To Cut Supplies

LD2801000392 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Jan 92

["Vesti" report by correspondent O. Sergeyeva]

[Text] The oil workers of the Komi Republic have sent President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Government an appeal that contains a demand for the abolition of fixed prices for oil and a reduction in the volume of the state order.

For comparison, a tonne of oil today costs 350 rubles, which is half the price of a tonne of carbonated water.

Without coordinating its action with Komineft, the largest oil association in Europe, the Russian Government has raised the previously agreed volume of the state order by over 1 million tonnes, thereby putting the association in the position of an external debtor. The oil workers will also be unable to give the republic the raw material necessary for purchases of food and everyday commodities. The same resolution closes the road to exports and reduces purchases of technological equipment needed to extract and refine oil.

The oil workers demand that the government make decisions urgently, by 1 February, on all the matters raised. Otherwise, the supply of oil to the oil refineries of the Commonwealth countries will be reduced.

Moscow, Unions Sign Social Protection Accord

LD2501061992 Moscow TASS in English
2152 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—An agreement on social and economic protection of Muscovites signed here on Friday [24 January] by the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions and the Moscow Government envisages measures to provide for employment, prevent the further lowering of the living standards, ensure social protection

and medical service, observe norms of labor and environmental protection, and develop culture and sports.

Under the agreement, the Moscow Government will every three months estimate and publish information on the minimum consumer budget of Muscovites, provide for the indexation of their incomes received from the city budget, and take measures to supply foodstuffs and prime necessities to city residents.

In their turn, the trade unions will render comprehensive assistance in the fulfillment of these measures and take an obligation to abstain from strikes in case all the provisions of the agreement are observed.

Muscovites Consider Economic Reform 'Essential'

PM2401145792 Moscow SOVetskaya Rossiya
in Russian 23 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed untitled report under the "People and Prices" rubric]

[Text] Almost one-half of Muscovites (49.1 percent) consider that the liberalization of prices and wages being implemented in Russia is essential. These are the findings of a poll conducted by the republic Academy of Sciences Sociology Institute and the Moscow Sociology Agency. However, around one-third of respondents in the capital (31.5 percent) gave a decisive "no" in answer to this question or inclined toward a negative response. People in the 18-38 age group (60.3 percent), workers in joint-stock companies and commodity exchanges (74.5 percent), and—strange though it may seem—the unemployed (63.6 percent) are the most fervent supporters of reforms. Workers in leasehold enterprises react most painfully to the changes. They head the column of negative responses (43 percent). Almost 23 percent of respondents think that the reform will not affect the lives of their families.

Chechen To Press for Independence Recognition

OW2601140192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1241 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] If Russia recognizes its independence, the Chechen Republic will join the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] treaty, General Jokhar Dudayev told the newspaper "GOLOS CHECHENO-INGUSHETII" (The Voice of Checheno-Ingushetia). The Chechen leader also reaffirmed his resolve to press for Moscow's recognition of his republic's "right to independence".

When asked about his attitude to the problem of nuclear arms J. Dudayev said that "the nuclear button in Russia's hands presents a threat to the world as a whole." J. Dudayev called for removing the entire nuclear arsenal to Antarctica and for setting up an international monitoring commission to guarantee its safety.

J. Dudayev described Mikhail Gorbachev's contribution to the efforts to dismantle the totalitarian system and ensure freedom for peoples as "invaluable". He said he will request the Chechen parliament to immortalize the name of the former Soviet president in Chechnia.

Kemerovo Leader: Yeltsin Talks 'Reassuring'

LD2701061392 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0243 GMT 26 Jan 92

[By correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo, 26 Jan (TASS)—Kemerovo Oblast administration head Mikhail Kislyuk, in a conversation today with a TASS correspondent after his return from Moscow, called the results of talks with the Russian president and government leaders reassuring.

While in 1989, he stressed, it was necessary to use the forceful pressure of striking miners to get a decision made, it is now possible to agree at the negotiating table on vitally important problems without ruining the economic situation connected to the implementation of reforms.

Miners' salaries have been raised. Expenditures on social insurance have been linked to the price of coal, an important economic support for all the inhabitants of the Kuzbass. A commission has been created to determine, on a monthly basis, the level of accounting prices for coal

to preclude a jump in wholesale prices for other products. It is necessary now for mines and shafts to work at full capacity; all spheres of the Kuzbass economy will then normalize, Mikhail Kislyuk said in conclusion.

Karelia Deputies Discuss Secession From Russia

LD2701230892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT
24 Jan 92

["Novosti" report by correspondent B. Ternoushko from the Karelian parliament session in Petrozavodsk—recorded]

[Text] As the deputies said in their speeches, Karelia is still nothing more than the source of raw material for the center. Its state of dependence has deprived it of financial resources and pushed the budget to deplorable condition. All attempts to allocate additional funds for social programs are running up against the tough restrictions of the Russian Government. The proclamation of these facts led to a dramatic turn in the work of the session, which many people found surprising. Forty-three deputies, mainly Russian by nationality, demanded Karelia's secession from Russia.

However, as a result of the vote, a different political solution to the problem was chosen. The parliament has called on Moscow to sign a federal treaty as soon as possible; if that is not possible, then parliament will return to the question of secession. For now though, all industrial enterprises in its territory must pass into the ownership of Karelia.

International Affairs

Egyptian Delegation Begins Official Visit

Kravchuk Receives Envoy

NC2501145492 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1240 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Kiev, 25 Jan (MENA)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk received Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of planning, today in a meeting also attended by Egypt's ambassador in Moscow, Ahmad Mahir Al-Sa'id.

Dr. al-Janzuri told MENA that he gave President Kravchuk a written message from President Husni Mubarak and conveyed to him President Mubarak's invitation to visit Egypt. He added that Kravchuk then invited President Mubarak to visit the Ukraine.

Ambassador Mahir said that the Ukrainian president expressed his thanks to President Mubarak for sending a high-level delegation, led by the deputy prime minister, to visit the Ukraine.

The Ukrainian president emphasized his country's desire to develop relations with Egypt in all political, economic, and trade fields, emphasizing that his country appreciates Egypt's and President Mubarak's standing in the world.

Ambassador Mahir said that Ukraine had strong ties with Egypt even under the old Union, when most of the equipment and machinery Egypt imported from the Soviet Union was made in the Ukraine.

Trade Prospects Discussed

LD2701064492 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1317 GMT 25 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko—TASS]

[Excerpt] Kiev, 25 Jan (UKRINFORM-TASS)—[passage omitted] During talks held today between an Egyptian delegation and Anatoliy Minchenko, Ukrainian minister of state for the economy, both sides noted new opportunities to enhance the breadth and depth of direct links between the two countries. The Ukrainian side confirmed its interest in honoring already concluded contracts and submitted a range of new proposals. These proposals concerned, in particular, the establishment of an Egypt-Ukraine trade center, the opening of an Egyptian bank office in the Ukraine, and the formation of joint ventures and businesses.

Ukraine is interested in receiving Egyptian technology and equipment used in storing and processing agricultural produce and in Egyptian light industry products. In turn, Egypt is looking to Ukraine for assistance in reconstructing its metallurgical and power-generation industries.

Diplomatic Relations Established

LD2701065192 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1440 GMT 25 Jan 92

[By unidentified UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 25 Jan (UKRINFORM-TASS)—Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning for the Arab Republic of Egypt, who is in Kiev on a working visit, today signed a joint communique establishing diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Canadian Foreign Minister Arrives in Kiev

Meets Zlenko

LD2601174992 Moscow TASS in English
1632 GMT 26 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Ivan Sayko]

[Text] Kiev January 26 TASS—Barbara Jean McDougall, the Canadian foreign minister, arrived in Kiev today. On the same day she met with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. During her two-day stay in Kiev the Canadian foreign minister will be received by Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk. The programme of the visit also includes the signing of documents on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Ukraine.

'Ready To Assist'

LD2701152392 Moscow TASS in English
1446 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Ivan Sayko and Aleksey Trotsenko]

[Excerpts] Kiev January 27 TASS—Canadian Minister of External Relations Barbara McDougall described her two-day tour to the Ukrainian capital as important and saturated with interesting meetings and visits.

Today, the minister was received by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to discuss prospects for the development of the Ukrainian-Canadian relations.

During the confidential meeting, McDougall asked about the Ukrainian leadership's attitude towards problems arising in the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Ukraine's servicing of its part of the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union, and other issues of mutual interest.

Kravchuk said the new Commonwealth has lots of problems, which is only natural. However, all the issues should be solved at the inter-state level, for instance, between the Ukraine and Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus etc.

The Ukrainian president stressed Ukraine does not refuse to service its part of the Soviet foreign debt, but insists on the just estimation of this part. Ukraine intends to make a corresponding statement on this matter.

The Canadian minister said her country knows about difficulties now faced by Ukraine, and is ready to assist it. McDougall also said a plane with medicine and medical equipment will come from Canada to Kiev on January 27. The cargo will be sent, among others, to the first children's hospital that the minister visited this morning. [passage omitted]

The Canadian Embassy opened in Kiev on January 27, and Consul General Nestor Gayovskiy became Canadian acting charge d'affairs in Ukraine. The latter became known after the two ministers signed a joint declaration on the establishment of the Ukrainian-Canadian diplomatic relations.

The two ministers said the fact that almost one million ethnic Ukrainians live in Canada attaches special significance to the event. The Ukrainians, residing in Canada, have received an additional opportunity to have contacts with the land of their fore-fathers.

Today, Barbara McDougall departed from Kiev.

Consulate Gains Embassy Status

*LD2701215192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Text] Barbara McDougall, Canada's secretary of state for external affairs, officially announced that from now on the Canadian consulate in Kiev would have embassy status.

Addressing journalists in Kiev following the ceremony opening the embassy, Barbara McDougall highly praised economic reforms in the Ukraine and called for a peaceful settlement of all differences among the Commonwealth of Independent States countries.

This was a report of Radio Liberty.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Portugal

*LD2701213992 Moscow TASS in English
1844 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev January 27 TASS—Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro is now in Kiev. He was received by President Leonid Kravchuk of the Ukraine today. During a frank conversation which was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, they discussed the development of bilateral contacts and prospects for political, economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the Ukraine and Portugal.

The Portuguese foreign minister said he is visiting the Ukraine not only as a representative of his country but also as an envoy of the European Community. He said support for democratic transformations taking place in the former republics of the Soviet Union, in the Ukraine in particular, and assistance to them were the leading subject at the international conference in Washington. These issues are to be discussed in greater detail and length at the forthcoming conference in Lisbon, the minister emphasised.

"My country and the European Community support the principles put forward by the Ukraine—to become a non-nuclear power, abide by the decisions of the Helsinki Conference and participate in international organisations," Joao de Deus Pinheiro said.

"I am convinced that relations between the Ukraine and the European Community will be good. We, for our part, will do everything for your country to join the all-European process as soon as possible," he said.

"It is very important for Ukraine to come to feel support in its actions on the part of European countries. We have proclaimed our principles of openness and a desire to cooperate with all countries and we shall firmly adhere to them," Leonid Kravchuk said.

On the same day Joao de Deus Pinheiro had a talk with his Ukrainian counterpart, Anatoliy Zlenko, discussing ways for the development of foreign political contacts between the two countries and the integration of Ukraine into the all-European process and international structures.

The two ministers signed a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Portugal.

Talks With Poland on Treaty, Security Issues

*LD2701231592 Warsaw PAP in English
2210 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Text] Kiev, Jan. 27—Issues related to the Polish-Ukrainian treaty on good neighbourly relations were the main topic of talks conducted here Monday [27 January] by Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jerzy Makarczyk.

On the first day of his visit to Kiev Makarczyk met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. "We would like the treaty to be signed by the presidents of the Ukraine and Poland during President Kravchuk's visit to Warsaw," Makarczyk said after the meeting.

It seems that the treaty, which is now being discussed by teams of experts, may be signed still this February.

Minister Makarczyk also conferred on Monday with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko. During the talks which focused on security issues, Polish deputy foreign minister stressed the significance of Polish-Ukrainian relations for the security of the whole European continent. Minister Zlenko stressed that the

numerosity of Ukrainian armed forces "depended on security guarantees for the Ukraine within the European collective security system".

Minister of State at the Polish President's Chancellery Jerzy Milewski, who is accompanying Deputy Foreign Minister Jerzy Makarczyk during his visit to the Ukraine, held talks Monday with Ukrainian National Security Service Chief Gen. Jevhen Marchuk and member of the National Security Council Mykhailo Khoryn.

Milewski proposed to the Ukrainian side close cooperation in conveying information essential for the security of both countries. The Polish guest was briefed on the structure and tasks of the Ukrainian National Security Service and the National Security Council.

Rukh Appeals to UN Security Council Countries

LD2701174292 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1712 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Report by Ukrinform correspondent Ivan Sayko]

[Text] Kiev, 27 Jan (TASS)—Rukh, Ukraine's biggest public organization, has adopted an appeal to leaders of the member-countries of the UN Security Council, in which it proposes that examination of the question of endorsing the Russian Federation as a permanent member of the Security Council be postponed for six months. This was reported today at a news conference in Kiev on the results of the session of Rukh's Grand Council, which took place on 25 January.

National Affairs

Kravchuk 'Will Never Tolerate' Subordination

AU2701140292 Vienna PROFIL in German
27 Jan 92 pp 48-49

[Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk by Andre Igler in Kiev; date not given: "'Yeltsin Must Not Lead'"]

[Text] [Igler] Mr. President, do you fear that the dispute between the Ukraine and Russia about the Black Sea Fleet might lead to an armed conflict?

[Kravchuk] No, I do not think so, and I have good reason not to. At the last CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] meeting on 11 January, the Ukraine and Russia reached an agreement on the Black Sea Fleet, which was signed by all state presidents. Now a commission will discuss the division of the Fleet. We think that all nuclear arms ought to be withdrawn from the Ukraine by 1 July. This applies to the Black Sea Fleet as well. After 1 July, ships carrying tactical nuclear weapons should have disappeared from the Black Sea. This will, of course, raise the issue of ships that may be equipped with nuclear arms. The entire Black Sea must become a nuclear-free zone.

[Igler] Yet this does not solve the tensions between the various republics.

[Kravchuk] It is only natural that there are difficulties. The Ukraine holds the view that all difficulties must be settled at the negotiating table. As the "Commonwealth of Independent States," we have not yet acquired much practical experience; nevertheless, so far we have always managed to find solutions. For example, we have just concluded an important agreement on budgeting state enterprises under the administration of the commonwealth itself. At the moment, we are dealing with transit and customs issues.

[Igler] The Ukraine is particularly skeptical about Russia's striving for hegemony. Can you imagine leaving the CIS in the foreseeable future?

[Kravchuk] It is the Ukraine's objective to live as an independent state, because the commonwealth itself does not constitute a state structure. All our members are independent states.

[Igler] And they all have equal rights.

[Kravchuk] Correct. This is the most important point. I will repeat again and again: There is no first among equals, no "tacit" leader. If one of these states were to try to assume a role to which it is not entitled, then the commonwealth would not survive much longer. We will never tolerate the Ukraine being subordinated.

[Igler] Do you think that Yeltsin has understood that?

[Kravchuk] I think he will have to understand. After all, democracy has become so strong that nobody will be able to stop these developments.

[Igler] What if that is not the case? Would the Ukraine be able to resist Russian pressure?

[Kravchuk] I think that reason will triumph in Russia and the Ukraine. More than 12 million Russians continue to live in the Ukraine, more than 5 million Ukrainians in Russia, many also in Turkmenistan and in Siberia. We just have to always seek means to solve our problems peacefully.

[Igler] Has nuclear disarmament started yet in the Ukraine? Is there an official timetable?

[Kravchuk] Yes, the reduction of nuclear weapons systems has started. In accordance with the agreements, the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory began in December 1991, and Russia committed itself to destroying them in a special plant in the Urals. In the Ukraine, we do not have the facilities to do it. We are most obliged to Russia and Boris Yeltsin for helping us to solve this difficult technological problem. There are 178 silos with intercontinental missiles in the Ukraine, and we hope to have all of them dismantled and eliminated by the end of 1994.

[Iglar] In an interview, the head of the newly founded East European Bank, Jacques Attali, proposed to exchange nuclear warheads, piece for piece, for reductions in the various states' debts.

[Kravchuk] I have heard nothing about that idea yet. I met Jacques Attali last year in Davos and we got on very well. Besides, recently he told us that we could become a member of the bank. We will certainly examine his proposal.

[Iglar] One-quarter of the Red Army is stationed in the Ukraine. What will be the social and economic consequences of the reduction of this Army?

[Kravchuk] This problem has not yet been solved. If in doubt, we will pay soldiers even after they have been discharged. We will retire as many as possible and provide guarantees for their pensions. It means that we will support every individual soldier until he finds a new job.

[Iglar] Although communism is now being seen as the root of all evil, the Ukrainians elected you, a man who was a communist all his life, as president.

[Kravchuk] Fortunately, the Ukrainians made their decision by looking at the present and not at the past; it means they voted for the person best suited to represent the interests of the people. After all, there are several examples in history where democracies turned into dictatorships and where democracies killed millions of people.

[Iglar] When did your great transformation take place? Before or after the 19 August coup in Moscow? You did not condemn the coup at the beginning.

[Iglar] Your information is wrong. First, I condemned the coup from the very beginning. I even did so on 10 August, when I gave a speech on television. At that time, I stated that we would not recognize any unconstitutional structures. It is true that I did not go out onto the street with a flag, but that was not what the situation required. We never recognized the authority of the state committee. This was the most important political decision.

[Iglar] Did you simply throw all your political principles as chief ideologist of the Communist Party overboard?

[Kravchuk] Look, man can only build on what he knows. First of all, I was never chief ideologist of the Ukraine, because that was always the job of the central secretary, and I was in the Central Committee only in an administrative function. Moreover, I was secretary in the Central Committee for less than a year. During that time, I learned everything about the famine in the Ukraine in 1933 (eight million dead—the editors) and repression. That radically changed my views.

Information on New Vice Premier Appointee

AU2801115292 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER
in Ukrainian No. 1, January 1992 p 2

[Appointment of Oleh Ivanovych Slyepichev as vice prime minister of the Ukraine by Ukrainian presidential decree and biographical information on the appointee]

[Text] In accordance with the Ukrainian presidential decree, Oleh Ivanovych Slyepichev has been appointed as vice-prime minister of the Ukraine.

O.I. Slyepichev was born on 14 August 1949 into a workers' family in the city of Luhansk. Ukrainian. In 1976 he graduated from the Donetsk Institute for Soviet Trade.

He started work in 1967, after finishing the Luhansk Special Secondary Technical School for Soviet Trade. He worked at various posts in the Soviet trade system in Luhansk oblast. From August 1987, he worked as first deputy minister of trade and, since December 1989—has been Ukrainian minister of trade.

Zlenko Rejects Territorial Claims on Crimea

LD2701225792 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
2200 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The foreign minister of Ukraine, Anatoliy Zlenko, declared that the republic cannot agree to any territorial claims, among them those which are related to the Crimea. We've got a very strong legal basis which determines everything, and first of all, pointed out the foreign minister of Ukraine, the status of the Crimea is determined by people themselves.

Economy, Differences With Russia To Be Argued

LD2801121392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, has said that the issue of economic reform will take an important place in the parliamentary session which resumes today.

Plyushch added said that the Ukraine's differences with Russia will also be discussed. He was sharply critical of the Ukrainian Government for its indecisiveness on the issue of privatization, which Plyushch called an integral part of economic reform. In his opinion, Ukrainian President Kravchuk is likely to ask parliament to extend his powers for more successful implementation of the reforms. It is expected that the disputed issue of the Black Sea Naval Fleet and the recent decision of the Russian Supreme Soviet to review the 1954 resolution handing Crimea over to Ukraine will also be discussed at the session.

Solidarity Union Calls for Fokin's Resignation

*LD2601234392 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
2200 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Text] Today, the All-Ukrainian Union of Solidarity of the Working People has disseminated an appeal demanding the resignation of the government headed by Vitold Fokin. This government, indicates the appeal, is carrying out anti-popular policy, the main vices of which are price liberalization and inadequate measures for social protection.

The Union of Solidarity of the Working People calls upon all the citizens of the republic to support these demands by picketing the building of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, where the fifth session is to open tomorrow, 28 January.

Military Reform To Adhere to Minsk Accord

*LD2501151992 Kiev Radio Kiev in English
2200 GMT 24 Jan 92*

[Text] The session of the Council of Defense of Ukraine, the highest decisionmaking body in the sphere of national defense in this country, took place early today in Kiev. Minister of Defense General Morozov presented his report on the military reform and the setting up of the national Armed Forces of Ukraine. The participants to the sitting (?stated) the strict adherence of the military reform to the legal act adopted by Ukrainian parliament and provisions of the Minsk accord of 30 December last year.

Black Sea Fleet Issue Unresolved**Servicemen Take Republic Oath**

*LD2701170192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Jan 92 p 3*

[Article by Vladimir Skachko: "The Republic Continues to Form its Own Army"]

[Excerpt] On 19 January Bogdan Khmelnytskyi Square in central Kiev was the site for the swearing of solemn oaths of allegiance to the people of Ukraine by reserve officers, among whom there were many parliamentary deputies, and of a national veche dedicated to the anniversary of the unification of the Ukrainian People's Republic and the Western Ukrainian People's Republic on 22 January 1919.

The ceremony was opened by parliamentary deputy Levko Lukyanenko, leader of the influential opposition Republican Party. Participants were blessed by priests of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox and Ukrainian Greek-Catholic churches.

Meanwhile Ukraine continues to form its own armed forces. On Saturday and Sunday military units and military schools were sworn in. In Kiev on Saturday, 18 January, the first Navy unit stationed in Kiev swore

allegiance to the people of Ukraine. Of the 1,000 personnel, approximately 900 servicemen were sworn in, including almost 100 percent of the officer corps. Unit commander Captain First Rank Nikolay Martynenko was the first to do so. [passage omitted dealing with introduction of coupon system]

Crews Refuse To Take Oath

*LD2501112692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
2047 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Officers of 17th Marina-Guard Brigade and the crew of Mikhayl Kutuzov cruiser of the Black Sea Navy do not intend to take oath of allegiance to the Ukraine on January 22. Vice-Admiral Aleksandr Frolov, chief-commander of the Crimean Navy base, refuted the information, made public by the Defense Ministry and claiming that the officers' meetings of 17th Marina-Guard Brigade and Mikhayl Kutuzov crew had taken a decision to swear allegiance to Ukraine.

The admiral claims that the Brigade's officers, headed by Lieut. Commander Yuriy Shalyk, have taken another decision: To refrain from any steps pending the adoption of a radical decision on the issue by top authorities. Moreover, the officers resolutely oppose even a part of the Fleet to be transferred under the Ukrainian jurisdiction. They believe that a well-organized collective cannot be just divided mechanically.

Cruiser Mikhayl Kutuzov—a vessel, which has served its time, is laid up. Out of a thousand-member crew only a few officers and dozens of sailors have remained. All are living ashore.

Information Distortion Alleged

*LD2601164592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0900 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] The Ukrainian news agency RESPUBLIKA reports that the press center of the Black Sea Fleet has protested the information being disseminated by Ukrainian newspapers, press, and television. The press center says the information distorts the real situation in the Black Sea Fleet. To date, fleet personnel have not taken an oath of allegiance to the Ukraine. Only 52 percent of sea border guards from the formations under the command of Captain First Class Alferyev have taken the oath. As is known, the sea border guards are not part of the Black Sea Fleet.

Union Demands Dismissals

*LD2601200392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1858 GMT 26 Jan 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Ukraine's union of officers called on the Ukrainian president, the Supreme Soviet, and the Cabinet of

Ministers to dismiss military commanders who refused to take the oath of loyalty to Ukraine. The plenary meeting of Ukraine's union of officers, held in Kiev on January 25, also discussed the current political situation in Ukraine and the tasks faced by the union in creating Ukraine's armed forces. According to the information disclosed at the plenary meeting, about 350,000 servicemen, including National Guards and Frontier Guards that are now on active service and are stationed on Ukrainian territory, have already taken the oath of loyalty to Ukraine.

Cuts Could Leave Many Officers Jobless

*PM2701155592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 25 Jan 92 p 1*

[Report by Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy: "There Is Information That Many Servicemen Who Have Taken the Oath to Ukraine May Soon Be Discharged"]

[Text] We recently received a report from the Ukrainian Alternative Information Center in Kiev which may shock many officers and NCOs of the Carpathian Military District who have taken the oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people. If the agency's claim is to be believed, the overwhelming majority of servicemen who have just taken the oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people will be discharged into the reserve in the very near future.

The report says among other things that only one-tenth of officers and NCOs can hope to continue serving in the Ukrainian Army.

During the formation of the republic's own armed forces the numerical strength of the troops now stationed on its territory will be reduced three-fourfold. In this connection the transfer of officers and NCOs who are Ukrainian citizens from the armies of other Commonwealth states to their home regions is highly problematical: It will be hard to find vacancies for them here.

Transcarpathia Seeks Self-Governing Status

*LD2601190292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Jan 92*

[Text] A session of the Transcarpathian Oblast Soviet has adopted a statement addressed to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet demanding that a provision for the self-government of Transcarpathia be included in the republic's constitution in line with the outcome of the referendum held there. It is a matter of registering Transcarpathia as a special, self-governing administrative territory. A commission of the oblast executive committee has already drafted a charter for the special self-governing territory. It will be submitted to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet after being discussed locally.

Belarus**Opposition Could Force Referendum Vote***PM2801104192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
25 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Nikolay Matukovskiy report: "Opposition Demands Resignation of Belarussian Parliament and Government"]

[Text] Minsk—Political parties and groups, the parliamentary opposition, and thousands of voters have long been saying increasingly insistently that it is necessary to dissolve the present Belarussian Supreme Soviet and schedule new elections. This idea now seems to be acquiring a real outline.

The leadership of the Belarussian Peasants Party, the Belarussian People's Front, the National Democratic Party, the United Democratic Party, the free trade unions, and Minsk City Strike Committee has announced the creation of a unified action group to collect signatures on the holding of a nationwide referendum. The purpose of the referendum is to remove the present parliament and schedule new elections. In order to hold such a referendum, its initiators have to collect 350,000 signatures. They do not doubt that there will be more signatures.

The parliament and government are accused of being unable to control the political and economic situation in the republic. This assertion tallies with reality, but only partly. Yes, the government is frequently tardy in "patching up the holes" in the economy and does not rush in good time from one breach to the next. But is it to blame for the fact that these holes appeared? They are a creation of the "socialist economy," which even today continues to hold us in its mortal grip.

The government is now taking feverish measures to acquire abroad in exchange for currency the grain that the republic lacks. To this end it is "confiscating" from enterprises half of the currency earned. This is out of desperation.

A critical situation has also come about in the republic's industry. It has been integrated to such an extent that it is entirely and completely dependent on neighbors—not a single gram of its own metal, coal, or oil. It is all imported. But the neighbors have now raised the prices of raw materials sharply and brought such giants as the tractor, motor vehicle, ball-bearing, and automatic lines plants; numerous machine tool-building plants; and oil-refining and chemical complexes face-to-face with the real prospect of a stoppage.

Is it necessary to "change horses in midstream" in such a situation? The opposition in parliament maintains—and various parties go along with it—that neither the republic's Supreme Soviet nor its government has a concept for getting out of the impasse. They maintain that the reason for this is the fact that "most deputies

and members of the government elected under undemocratic conditions belong to the former nomenklatura and are incompetent." Events in the very near future will show whether this is so. God preserve us from a repeat of the April events. At that time the government had just a minimal reserve. Now it has none. The way out of the impasse must be sought without delay and by political means.

Kebich Raises Claim to Part of Fleets*LD2701181892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Text] In the event of a share-out of the merchant and fishing fleet between the republics of the former Union, Belarus could also lay claim to its share of ships. For the first time, this idea has been voiced by republic Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich.

Today began the formation of a government group commissioned to carry out work on setting up a new administration of the Ministry of Transport. The group will submit relevant proposals to the leadership of the Belarus Council of Ministers by 1 April.

Restoral of Contract Ties With CIS Demanded*LD2501155692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1642 GMT 24 Jan 92*

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Directors of industrial facilities in Mogilyov demand the Supreme Soviet of Republic of Belarus to restore contractual relations between states of the CIS. The telegram sent to Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, by 19 directors of industrial facilities of Mogilyov was published in the NARODNAYA GAZETA. It says that the actions of the leaders of the former Union and the republics may lead the country to chaos, and the economy to a catastrophe. The telegram also says that contracts between enterprises situated in different states of the CIS have become invalid, with every republic establishing its own prices, exceeding reasonable limits 10, 60 and even more times.

The industrialists warn that the refusal of enterprises in Ukraine and Russia to sign contracts may lead to the complete collapse and stoppage of production as early as mid-February. They suggest the following:

- To forbid enterprises to sell their production at exchanges until they sign supply contracts and satisfy the demand of the consumers under the contract
- to revise tax rates on additional cost
- to consider the liberalization of prices unjustified and untimely
- to call an immediate meeting of the leaders of the CIS to resolve these problems. If the resolutions demanded

by the industrialists are not adopted by February 1, they threaten to demand the dismissal of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic and the resignation of the government.

New Company To Engage in 'Brain Trade'

LD2801114492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Scientists of the Belarus Academy of Sciences have set up the "Three S's" [Tri-Es] scientific production company which will engage in the brain trade. The trust intends to establish business links with western enterprises and businessmen to sell its scientific studies and research at world prices.

Military Recruits Take Oath of Allegiance

LD2701165192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT
27 Jan 92

[Interview with A.I. Kostenko, troop commander of Belarussian Military District, by A. Zhuk, over video report of recruits on parade, taking oath; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Zhuk] Here at the Verkhovnyy Sovet Respubliki Belarus Motor-Rifle Regiment, last fall's recruits have been taking the military oath of allegiance to the Republic of Belarus. [Addressing Kostenko] Are the recruits mainly Belarus-born, or are some from other regions of the Commonwealth?

[Kostenko] The overwhelming majority are from Belarus, but there are among them some young soldiers called up on the territory of Belarus who are Russians or Ukrainians. Actually we have many such youths. But according to the report I have received, they have all nevertheless taken the oath, in its new wording, of allegiance to the Belarus people.

Agreement Reached on Relations With PRC

PM2701141292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Yuriy Savenkov report: "Premier Escorted by Tourists: V. Kebich's Visit to China"]

[Text] Beijing—A government delegation from the Republic of Belarus, headed by V.F. Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers, has ended a five-day visit to China.

More than 50 tourists from Minsk arrived in Beijing on board the special TU-154 together with the delegation. Vyacheslav Kebich gave this explanation of his unusual escort: "We have to live within our means. We could have taken a scheduled flight via Moscow. But that would have been belittling to our dignity as a sovereign state. The Belorussian airline made this a charter flight. It all worked out much more cheaply. The public will not

accuse us of wasting money, especially since the prices set by Aeroflot from 1 January are designed only to suit a government with big financial resources..."

During the visit the partners signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation. Talking to journalists, V. Kebich spoke with enthusiasm of China's readiness to sell the quantity of feed grain that the Belarussian livestock sector needs. The Belarussians will reciprocate with large consignments of potash fertilizers. Another barter deal was also agreed on: 200,000 tonnes of Chinese sugar in exchange for heavy freight vehicles. Kebich is doubly pleased with this accord: After the disintegration of our economic ties it is not easy to find a market for heavy trucks. The Belarussians intend also to buy medicines and medical equipment from China.

The delegation visited the south, including the free economic zone of Shenzhen. In the city of Wuxi (in the eastern province of Jiangsu) it was received by CPC Central Committee General Secretary Jiang Zemin.

In Beijing, during talks with the Chinese leaders, an accord was reached on establishing diplomatic relations between the PRC and Belarus. A separate agreement was signed on this. The first steps for the young Belarussian diplomacy on Chinese soil highlighted a number of problems. One is the triangular relations—"independent republic—Russian Embassy—Chinese authorities." Here is what V. Kebich thinks about this: Belarus wants an ambassador in Beijing, but not an embassy. Today the republic's financial position does not allow it to open embassies in every state. The republic's interests could, in his view, be suitably represented by the Russian Embassy, whose personnel will work for Belarus, too. After all, the republic is entitled to a share of the capital invested (just over 4 percent of the total value of the property).

I got the impression that the premier was speaking more or less intuitively. The creators of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] have in effect only a vague notion of the status of the Russian Embassy, while the meticulous Chinese are still wondering, for instance, "why the Russian Embassy is handling a request for permission for an aircraft belonging to the independent Belarussian state to overfly Chinese territory."

Would it not be simpler for the time being, until everything is finally resolved with the opening of the independent republics' diplomatic missions, to instruct the Russian Embassy to represent their interests and, most importantly, to officially notify the Chinese of this fact, so that they do not keep wondering who is who.

On Friday morning V. Kebich and his team and the tourists left for home by the same charter flight. On the way there is to be a short stopover in Ulaanbaatar, during which, it was reported here, an agreement on diplomatic relations with Mongolia is to be signed.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Portugal*LD2701100792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Text] Talks in Minsk between Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko and Joao de Deus Pinheiro, head of the Portuguese Foreign Affairs Ministry, have ended with the signing of a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between the Republic of Belarus and Portugal. Pinheiro is acting on behalf of not only his government but also the international conference to coordinate aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

French, Portuguese Officials Conclude Visits*LD2701182892 Minsk Radio Minsk Network
in Belarussian 0400 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Text] A French delegation led by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has ended its visit to our Republic. During negotiations a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between Belarus and France was signed. Military-political issues and prospects for the development of the Commonwealth of Independent states were also discussed.

A delegation from Portugal led by Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro also arrived in our republic yesterday. It had meetings with Supreme Soviet Chairman Shushkevich and Myasnikovich, first deputy chairman of Belarus's Council of Ministers. A protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and Portugal was signed.

Moldova**Snegur, Romania's Iliescu Discuss Relations****Talks Previewed***AU2501155292 Bucharest Radio Romania Network
in Romanian 2035 GMT 24 Jan 92*

[Interview with Moldovan Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu by Bucharest Radio correspondent Gabriel Ionescu in Kishinev on 24 January—recorded]

[Text] [Ionescu] Mr. Minister, the presidents of Romania and the Republic of Moldova will meet tomorrow, 25 January, in Ungheni. Before the meeting, could you tell us what you believe will be the major issues the two presidents will discuss?

[Tiu] First of all, I would like to emphasize that these meetings have become a tradition because we are moving too slowly and there are many problems in our bilateral relations that must be discussed. The meeting to be held tomorrow will give us the opportunity to step up the process of finding solutions to what I could call major problems.

I believe that issues related to economic relations will be discussed, as well as issues concerning future prospects that should be coordinated with current conditions both in the economic and financial areas in Romania and Moldova, so that later the executives will have a concrete program that will facilitate the process of finding solutions to those problems.

[Ionescu] These are very important days for diplomatic ties between Romania and the Republic of Moldova. The first Romanian diplomats, that is, Mr. Ion Bistretanu, Foreign Ministry counsellor and charge d'affaires ad interim in the Republic of Moldova, and Mr. Aurelian Cretu, first secretary and head of the Consular Section of Romania's Embassy in Chisinau [Kishinev], arrived a few days ago in Moldova's capital city. Yesterday, President Mircea Snegur signed the decree through which Mr. Aurelian Constantin Danila was appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Romania. He, as a matter of fact, is the first ambassador of the Republic of Moldova. What significance do you attach to these moments in view of the fraternal relations of cooperation between Romania and Moldova?

[Tiu] I think the fact that the first ambassador of the Republic of Moldova abroad is to Romania is significant in itself. And this should give an impetus to our relations, that is, a faster pace in our relations is required because we can only see the effects of a few things that we have done. So, when our representative is in Bucharest and Romania's representative is in Chisinau, I believe that the problems will be solved much faster. Because I would say that one of the major problems is the problem of organizing certain currency exchange points so that citizens on both sides of the Prut River are not busy with black marketing but come to the border exchange points instead. We have been talking about it since August, and tomorrow, during the meeting of the presidents, bank governors will be also present and I am optimistic that this issue will be one of the first ones to be solved. I mean that citizen's border crossing should be facilitated and they should not be busy with what they are doing today.

And there are many other problems that we have to coordinate and having direct contacts will enable us to solve them much faster. [Ionescu] What can you tell us about the presence of the Republic of Moldova at the CSCE Prague meeting at the end of this month?

[Tiu] First of all, I would like to say that today we are recognized by about 90 states. This is the first stage. The second stage is to establish diplomatic relations with these countries. We are concerned with this issue and to this effect we have started to draft a plan in connection with our embassies abroad. We have to coordinate this plan with all the countries that have already advanced requests to open embassies here. Another issue in Moldova's foreign policy is its participation in international bodies. In this respect, we attach particular attention to our participation in the CSCE. We have established contacts with the secretariat in Prague and we have

already answered all the messages that we received from Prague. A representative of the Republic of Moldova has been invited to and will participate in the opening meeting of the high functionaries of the countries that participate in the CSCE process on 27 January. This cooperation must lead to the fact that on 30-31 January we will participate in the CSCE meeting in Prague.

Another issue is our joining the United Nations. Last week we sent an application and a declaration signed by the president of the Republic, Mircea Snegur, in which we expressed our request to be accepted as a member of this organization. We believe that shortly, at the end of the month, this issue will also be discussed by the Security Council, and then, during another United Nations meeting, the issue of our joining this organization will be decided.

[Ionescu] Mr. Minister, there is much talk about the fact that the Ukraine wants to withdraw from the Commonwealth of Independent States. In your opinion, what is the future of this community?

[Tiu] We have expressed our position several times, even as early as the time when President Snegur left for Alma Ata, he expressed Moldova's position. We will participate in this organization, I mean it is even possible that we will join it, if we do not feel again that the intentions of certain independent states are to move toward a point when they will become the new center. Today I do not know how true the rumor is that the Ukraine wishes to withdraw from this community of independent states. As you very well know, we have not even joined it because we are going to join after the document signed in Alma Ata by Moldova's Parliament is ratified.

I believe that attempts have been made to establish certain institutions of coordination, that is, there were intentions to form centers that should lead, together with us. We vehemently criticized this act and refused to participate in the establishment of these institutions of coordination. Our policy, the policy of the Republic of Moldova—not only in our foreign policy but also in our economy and other branches—is to participate on an equal footing and have the same rights without any kind of center. It is possible to have contacts for consultations but not to have certain institutions that each day would call us on the phone to give us orders and would start with the emergence of a small dictatorship in the beginning and later would turn this CIS into a totalitarian state. Here I want to repeat again the position of our government and what the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Mircea Snegur, expressed often, namely that we will participate in this community but only without any type of leadership from above. We want to join as independent and equal countries and with whom we feel there is need for us to join. We will join only that type of organization and we will never participate in any other type of organization.

[Ionescu] Tomorrow, as far as I know, some experts are going to leave for Minsk.

[Tiu] Yes, we have been invited. However, since we also have certain domestic problems, it is possible that we will not attend this meeting in Minsk. We have an economic representative there, a representative of the Republic of Moldova in the Republic of Belarus, who will inform us later about the negotiations that will be held in the capital of the Republic of Belarus on 25 January.

[Ionescu] Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

Talks Begin

LD2501204992 Moscow TASS in English 1923 GMT
25 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev January 25 TASS—Moldavian President Mircea Snegur and his Romanian counterpart Ion Iliescu met today in the Prut state farm, in the Ungen District bordering on Romania. The first part of the meeting was a tete-a-tete conversation.

After the three-hour conversation they told journalists that the talks had been very fruitful and reiterated the desire of the two independent states to develop and strengthen mutually advantageous cooperation. Moldavian President Mircea Snegur stressed that they had focused their attention on difficulties connected with the transition of both countries to a market-oriented system, on the creation of joint enterprises in various branches of the national economy and the development of the border free economic zone.

President Ion Iliescu pointed out, in his turn, that both countries now have to resolve problems, connected with the changing of a political reality as a result of the appearance of new independent states on the territory of the former Soviet Union, including the Republic of Moldova, as well as with economic difficulties facing Romania and Moldova.

News Conference Held

AU2501211092

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian at 1700 GMT on 25 January 1992 carries a report on the news conference by Romanian President Ion Iliescu and Moldovan President Mircea Snegur held in the Moldovan border town of Ungen at the end of the two presidents' 25 January meeting. Before answering journalists' questions, the two presidents each make a brief statement, totaling six minutes, on issues that were discussed during their meeting and on the importance of the meeting. These statements are followed by a 23-minute question-and-answer session.

Asked about cooperation between Romania's National Bank and the Bank of the Republic of Moldova, President Snegur is heard to say that "this issue was discussed mainly because of the presence at the meeting of the governors of the two national banks. They discussed the

scientific and other types of assistance to be granted by the Romanian National Bank to Moldova, as well as assistance in determining the national currency of the Republic of Moldova." On the question of the "Moldovan leu" as Moldova's official currency, Snegur says, "We will see what it will look like, after the experts work it out." Iliescu adds that "some days ago, there was a practical meeting between experts when the Moldovan Bank's governor visited Bucharest and held discussions with experts who could grant the necessary technical assistance."

Asked about Romania's and Moldova's relations with the Ukraine, President Snegur says that during this meeting "we mostly discussed relations between the Republic of Moldova and Romania" since "Moldova is no more a republic of the former empire of the USSR, it is an independent country, which is part of the community of independent states." He says that Moldova's economy also depends on relations with the Ukraine, where "certain measures" are being taken, such as "replacing the ruble with tickets."

Iliescu says that "it is in our interest to have good neighborly relations with the new states that have been established such as the Ukraine and Russia. One thing is the historical issue of the territories occupied illegally without historical and legal justification and condemnation of the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, and another is the practical process to carry out the historical repair of this injustice. In politics, issues can only be approached with realism and wisdom."

In connection with the National Convention of the Union held in Iasi on 24 January, Snegur says he does not have much information on the subject because he had no time to study and examine what happened in Iasi. Iliescu says that they had other things to discuss during their meeting.

Then, answering a journalist's question on agricultural cooperation, Snegur discusses prospects of cooperation in agriculture by "creating joint enterprises in the agro-industrial complex," and he gives several examples of already existing ventures. Snegur says that regarding "the land law" they discussed practical issues "so as not to make mistakes" and "leave unharvested crops in the field."

Asked whether this meeting is a step toward union, Iliescu says that "it is an important step toward developing relations between the two Romanian states and laying the foundation for the process of integration mentioned before." Snegur adds that "the meeting today is an additional step toward supporting the independence of the Republic of Moldova."

Asked about the possibilities of Romanians on the two sides of the Prut in ensuring the context of the new European balance, Iliescu says that Romanians on both banks of the Prut "play a very important role in Europe, at a continental level." Snegur mentions that during today's meeting they discussed the issue of the Republic of

Moldova having the support of Romania as far as integration into Europe and the world community are concerned. Iliescu adds that at the Prague CSCE meeting Romania "will directly carry out concrete activity to support Moldova's integration into the European Community."

A journalist asks about "measures against parliamentarians who participated yesterday in the National Convention of Union held in Iasi" and whether "Moldova's parliament will have to decide on the activity of those parliamentarians," Snegur says that "they are parliamentarians and this issue is the concern of the Parliament."

A journalist from the National Studio asks the two presidents whether, in the context of being "two independent and fraternal countries, they will grant each other most favored nation status or whether they will concentrate on the issue of both being Romanians." Iliescu replies: "We are living in times of a market economy" thus "we have inter-state relations" but domestic issues and economic issues of bilateral interest should be promoted.

The question concerning the "joint economic zone" is answered by Snegur who says that "this free economic zone and free trade zone should be located along the Prut River." Iliescu adds that ways to "facilitate exchanges and bilateral trade" will be discussed by economic bodies of the two countries, who will find the final solutions to these issues.

Asked about the next meeting between the two presidents, Snegur says that "We have agreed that the next meeting will take place in Chisinau [Kishinev], in the Republic of Moldova, in the framework of an official visit of President Iliescu to the Republic of Moldova." To this Iliescu adds "and then we will discuss development in all areas between our countries."

Accord Discussed

AU2501190592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1752 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 25/1/1992—President Ion Iliescu of Romania and the President of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur agreed Saturday, January 25, that an accord be signed soon to provide a broader framework and consistence to the fraternal and cooperative relations between the two Romanian states.

During their meeting in Ungen the two presidents noted with satisfaction that in 1991 the cooperation between the two states developed and deepened on a political, economic, cultural, scientific and other planes. Presidents Iliescu and Snegur highlighted the particular importance of facilitating the crossing of the Prut by Romanian citizens who can do it using only their identity cards.

The opening in Bucharest and Chisinau [Kishinev] of diplomatic missions in keeping with the understanding of August 29, 1991 between the governments of Romania and Moldova will contribute to the expansion

of the links between Romania and the Republic of Moldova as it devolves from the common language, culture and national history, the two heads of state noted.

The two presidents decided that mutual consultations be held at various levels, that steps be undertaken to expand economic cooperation priority being given to the creation of a free trade zone between Romania and the Republic of Moldova. They considered as opportune the creation in the future of bilateral intergovernmental structures to facilitate the harmonization of the economic, legislative, cultural, educational and other policies.

During their meeting they also exchanged opinions at length on the current international situation. Stress was laid in that context on the importance Romania and the Republic of Moldova attached to observing the principles of the UN charter, the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and of the other CSCE documents to the end of building a new Europe on the basis of human values and the values of democracy. It was stressed that the deep-going political and economic changes occurring in Europe and in the two Romanian states offered new possibilities of intensifying their fraternal and cooperative relations in consonance with the natural aspirations of the citizens of Romania and of the Republic of Moldova.

The meeting was attended for Romania by Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, Napoleon Pop, secretary of state at the trade and tourism department, Mugur Isarescu, governor of the National Bank of Romania, and for the Republic of Moldova by Nicolae Tiu, minister of foreign affairs, Andrei Cheptene, deputy minister of national economy, Filip Zubaty, minister of state in

the government of the Republic of Moldova, Leonid Talmaci, governor of the National Bank of the Republic of Moldova.

It was agreed that the next meeting between the two presidents be held in March.

At the news conference held at the end of the meeting the two presidents answered questions asked by journalists on the Moldovan leu as the national currency of the Republic of Moldova, the relations of Romania and of the Republic of Moldova with Ukraine, the opportuneness of the convention for the reunification of the nation in Iasi, the cooperation prospects in agriculture, the mutual granting of the most favored nation status and others.

'Inevitable' Unification With Romania Predicted

*LD2601191892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1300 GMT 26 Jan 92*

[Text] The weekly GOLOS NATSII believes that Moldova's reunification with its ancestral motherland, Romania, is an inevitable historical process that will be accomplished sooner or later. The newspaper considers that political, economic, and national stability in the Republic of Moldova are essential prerequisites for this. It says that Moldova must pass through a transitional period leading up to this grand reunification. During this period, conservative and separatist forces will try to prevent this from happening in various ways. The Moldovan paper feels that the reunification process should be handled in two stages: Moldova and Romania would establish a Romanian common market followed by the establishment of the United States of Romania.

Turkmenia**Former KGB Chief Named Defense Minister***LD2801082392 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0628 GMT 28 Jan 92*

[By unidentified TURKMEN PRESS correspondent]

[Text] Ashkhabad, 28 Jan (TURKMEN PRESS-TASS)—Danatar Kopekov, who previously worked as chairman of the republic's State Security Committee, has become the first minister of defense in Turkmenia. This is stated in a report from the press service of the president of Turkmenistan and which was published in the republican newspapers. On Monday evening Turkmenia President Saparmurad Niyazov signed decrees setting up a Turkmenia Ministry for Defense Affairs and appointing the minister and his deputies.

Niyazov Decree Sets Privatization for Feb*LD2501194892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
2100 GMT 24 Jan 92*

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] In February in Turkmenistan privatization of land, industrial sphere, trade, and consumer service and the state power reform will start. As became known from the sources connected with Saparmurad Niyazov, he sent to the executive committees of the regional and district soviets a decree on preparation of documents to the breaking up of unprofitable collective and state farms to be carried out in February to March this year. Their lands and property will be distributed between the farms' workers after appropriate redemption. Turkmenistan's president has also ordered that the ministries' and departments' leaders prepare a list of unprofitable enterprises as liable to privatization. They are planned to be handed over to share-holding companies.

All the facilities of uncompleted construction will also be privatized. Any artificial or natural person can become their owner, with any form of property or citizenship. The state subsidies to enterprises of the construction and industrial sphere will be stopped starting from the beginning of February.

It is planned that the Turkmen Government will cancel all duties on the goods being imported into the republic as from the beginning of February of from mid-February. In addition, at all the points for export of goods from Turkmenistan, reinforced customs posts will be established, whose main task will consist in preventing exports from the republic of the unlicensed products and consumer goods. In this way, Turkmen officials are going to protect the domestic market of the republic from washing-away of the goods.

According to some local entrepreneurs, this follows from Niyazov's declaration which he made on January 22 at the session of the president's council that retail prices in

the republic will rise till the end of 1992 by 10 to 15 percent, as a maximum. The difference between the retail and wholesale prices is planned to be covered from the state budget. The republic's leadership is going to receive money for this purpose from sales of its gas and cotton for hard currency and rubles for the world prices.

From the same sources it has become known that the 13th session of the Turkmenistan's Supreme Soviet which is planned to be held starting from February 13 this year, will adopt the new constitution, arms, flag, and hymn of the republic. The draft constitution provides for giving to Turkmenistan a status of a president's republic, which is very limited by functions of the parliament. The local power will be represented not by soviets which will be abolished, but by president's representatives, the archins. Instead of regions, a new administrative unit will be introduced, a vilayet. It is also planned that the session will adopt laws on privatization and denationalization, investments and foreign economic activities.

Agreements Signed on Supply of Gas to CIS*LD2501135392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1856 GMT 22 Jan 92*

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] On January 21 in Ashkhabad agreements were signed on delivery of natural gas from Turkmenistan in the first quarter to members of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] at the price of R [Rubles] 870 for 1,000 cubic meters. The agreements were signed between the leaders of the Turkmeniasprom Corporation and representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. When similar agreements are concluded for the second quarter of this year, Turkmenistan is going to raise the cost up till R8,000 for 1,000 cubic meters.

Negotiations with Georgia have reached a deadlock, as the buyers were not able to receive the seller's conditions, i.e. to pay for gas according to the world prices. As Nazar Soyunov, Turkmen vice-premier, told PF [POST-FACTUM] on January 22, within the next few days negotiations with delegations from Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine will take place. Soyunov said that settling with these republics will be carried out also according to the world prices.

The Turkmen vice-premier condemned delays of the negotiations on gas delivery by the Ukrainian side, saying that if the Ukrainian representatives do not arrive at Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan will reduce the gas volume being exported along the pipe-line Turkmenistan-Center by the quantity which should be delivered to Ukraine according to the agreement. Turkmenistan's obligation to deliver in 1992 63.9 billion of cubic meters of gas at the agreed prices to members of the Commonwealth of Independent States was one of the items of the agreement on delivery of natural gas from Turkmenistan to Russia and for exports which was signed in Moscow on January 20. According to this agreement, from 103.5

billion of cubic meters of gas exported to Europe by the Russian concern Gazprom, Russian Federation recognizes that Turkmenistan's share is 11.28 billion of cubic meters, takes an obligation of paying by hard currency and goods for this volume on the conditions of the agreement, which was concluded with the concern by foreign consumers.

As Nazar Soyunov, Turkmenistan's vice premier, said, the current gas production is 80.15 billion of cubic meters and can be raised after transfer to settlements with other states of the Commonwealth to the world prices.

EC Said Ready To Accept Republic as Member
LD2501194792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
2100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[From the "External Economic Relations" section]

[Text] European Community is ready to accept Turkmenistan as a member-state, provided this republic will not introduce its own currency. This was told PF [POSTFACTUM] by Matkarim Razhapov, vice premier of Turkmenistan, citing as a basis for this assertion the contacts with representatives of the European Economic Community.

If, however, the republic introduces a currency of its own, adoption of the republic to the European Economic Community will be delayed until this currency has become convertible. According to the sources who are connected with Turkmenistan's leadership, this republic is not going to introduce a currency of its own, and in case of a break of the ruble zone of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the republic is ready to conclude an agreement with Russia on a united currency.

According to Razhapov, another condition of Turkmenistan's adoption into the members of the European Economic Community is the active realization of market-oriented reforms with liberalization of foreign economic relations.

Uzbekistan

Officials Comment on 16 January Student Unrest

Interior Ministry: No Repression

OW2401174992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1609 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbekistan's first deputy interior minister has said that during student unrest in Tashkent on January 16 and 17 there was no repression. Elementary measures to restore order were taken, he said. Speaking at a news conference in Tashkent Major-General Viktor Gusev said that the police "acted in keeping with the laws of sovereign Uzbekistan".

According to the Interior Ministry's sources, sixteen shops, eight cars and one police station were damaged. Major General Gusev said that "tough and resolute measures must be taken against hooliganism, looting and arsons".

General Gusev said that on the first and second day of unrest policemen were "beaten up, challenged and insulted". "In some cases, when policemen were attacked, firearms were used", he added.

According to official statistics announced two days after the unrest only one person died. Uzbekistan's Health Minister Shavkat Karimov has said that a total of 94 people were hurt. Thirty-three of them were hospitalized and 61 were given first aid.

At Thursday's news conference at the city committee of the youth union of Uzbekistan it was announced that another young man, a student of the architectural institute, had died of a bullet wound in the head in an intensive care ward.

The secretary of the youth union of Tashkent's university Andrey Karimov, who is also a member of the government commission investigating student riots, has told journalists that "he felt certain mistrust towards the official statistics of casualties, which must have been greater".

IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent in Uzbekistan, Abdurashid Sharif, has said that the greatest number of deaths, which occurred as a result of unrest—reportedly 21 people—was named to him by participants in the independent inquiry who questioned eye-witnesses.

The government and independent investigators are still to find out who ordered moving a police unit having live ammunition to the university campus.

First Shots Said Fired From Crowd

OW2501175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1356 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The interior department of the city council in Tashkent has made public its own account of the student unrest that ended in the Uzbek capital nine days ago.

According to it, the first shots were fired from a crowd of student protesters on the police, not vice versa. Policemen, in their turn, "were compelled to fire warning shots in the air in order to control aggressive criminal acts."

The interior department says a total of 97 policemen were wounded and 9 of them were taken to hospital, but it gives no figures concerning the number of casualties among the students.

According to the government commission investigating the unrest, 2 students died; one of them was shot and killed through the door of his hostel room.

Javaharlar Khakimov, secretary of the city committee of the Uzbek Youth League, maintains a new wave of disturbances is likely to occur after the students return from their forced vacations. The government extended the vacations until February 10 in order to prevent an escalation of student discontent with the price hikes and lack of social guarantees for the period of transition to a market economy. Mr. Khakimov told IF [INTERFAX] that the situation remains tension-laden in spite of the measures ordered by the authorities.

On Saturday, the Political Executive Committee of the electoral council of the National Democratic Party [NDP] of Uzbekistan (successor to the republican Communist Party) condemned police actions on January 16-17 as unlawful. The NDP maintains the police exceeded its range of authority by opening fire on defenseless people and beating up students not involved in the unrest.

Deputies Fail to Show for News Conference

LD2401223192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Uzbek people's deputies were expected to hold a news conference today at Uzbekistan's permanent mission in Moscow to assess events at Tashkent's student village on 16 January. That night was marked by student disturbances that turned into bloody clashes, with a special purpose militia detachment [OMON] opening fire on the demonstrators. The increase in bread prices was cited as the reason for the disturbances. Official reports indicate that one person died and that one of the 42 people who were hospitalized remains in critical condition. However, the news conference did not take place. Correspondent Andrey (Zenkov) reports that the Uzbek permanent mission explained that bad weather prevented a group of people's deputies from flying to Moscow. Journalists who gathered for the news conference were shown a video recording of President Karimov's speech to Tashkent residents on 20 January. The official version remains unchanged: Political forces dissatisfied with the republic's policies exploited this spontaneous student uprising to play the Georgian scenario. An attempt to discredit the legally elected president and to press for his resignation is implied. The president recalled that the students' initial demands for an immediate end to price liberalization almost immediately grew into political demands that the Supreme Soviet, the government, and the president himself should resign. Karimov said the bread prices claim was just an excuse. The most expensive long loaf costs R1.20 in the republic, much less than in Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and other republics where price liberalization has started already. The OMON's role has not been fully explained.

In the permanent mission's corridors, our correspondent met (Makhmud Yanakov), who introduced himself as the inspection commission chairman of Uzbekistan's Berlik People's Movement. He said that a second clash between students and the OMON took place on 17

January after another rally took place at which the ratio was one law and order representative to one student. The OMON attacked unexpectedly and stormed the Polytechnic Institute building in Tashkent, beating students who were resting there, including those who were wounded the day before. The Institute's rector and the Geology Faculty's dean were beaten. (Yanakov) said the government did not react officially to the incident on 17 January. There also could have been casualties. It is not clear whether a commission specially formed by the government is investigating.

'Disturbances' 'Preplanned' By Opposition

PM2701165292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Anton Zverev report: "Tragedy in Tashkent: Islam Karimov's Story"]

[Text] A press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists scheduled for noon on 24 January by the permanent mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Moscow in connection with the recent tragic events at the Tashkent university campus was postponed indefinitely by the organizers at the last minute.

As V. Zorin, a staffer of the permanent mission, told those present, members of the government commission to investigate the causes of the tragedy, which according to official figures resulted in one student's death and injuries to a few dozen others, were to have taken part in the meeting with journalists. According to V. Zorin, since the commission has only just begun work, it is premature to talk about its results. An extract from the video recording of last Monday's meeting between republic president I. Karimov and the Tashkent public and representatives of the mass media was offered to the journalists for their attention. Let us remind you that the president stated that the student disturbances in the city were preplanned and were provoked by a "quite influential" opposition grouping in Uzbekistan's ruling circles—those who were dissatisfied with the results of the recent election of the head of the sovereign republic. The shots that rang out during the 16 January rally, I. Karimov stressed, "were not directed against the students, but against the president legitimately elected by the people."

Defense Minister Appeals to Soldiers in CIS

PM2701144592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 25 Jan 92 p 1

[Feature consisting of report by Major A. Dolinin, editorial reply, and appeal from Uzbek Republic Defense Minister Akhmedov to Uzbeks serving in the Commonwealth of Independent States Armed Forces, under the general heading "All Problems Can Be Resolved so Long as There Is Goodwill"]

[Text]

At the Strategic Rocket Troops the New Intake Are Beginning to be Sworn In

"The administration of the oath is an emotional event," Lieutenant General Yu. Terentyev, chief of a directorate of the Strategic Rockets Forces Main Staff, said. "Whereas it used to be a ceremonial occasion, now it is an acute problem."

Why? The reasons became clear from telephone conversations with unit commanders and from reports reaching the main staff.

As is well known, young missilemen have to swear an oath of allegiance to the people of the state where they are a citizen—an oath common to all servicemen of the strategic forces—and swear to sacredly obey the Constitution and laws of their own state and the state on whose territory they perform their military duty.

The agreement on the strategic forces' military oath has still not been signed by the president of Uzbekistan, and more than 800 draftees from that state doubt their right to take it. Parents, village elders, and people's deputies are now going to units to try to persuade them that they can and must take the oath. Nevertheless, the situation remains uncertain.

From the Editorial Office: We intended to attach to that alarming report a commentary on the difficult situation in which servicemen of various nationalities find themselves now, when the leaders of sovereign states cannot agree among themselves. But when this issue was being prepared for publication the editorial office received a heartening document signed by Major General R. Akhmedov, Uzbekistan defense minister. We are now publishing it and bringing it to the attention of the 800 young men in question and many other draftees from Uzbekistan in the hope that it will help them make up their minds and reach the correct decision.

But of course this does not apply to them alone. We are quoting the document here for all our readers to show how acute problems can and should be resolved in our difficult and contradictory time.

Everything can be resolved, all difficulties overcome, and all interests taken into account so long as there is goodwill and a mind for mutual understanding, not confrontation.

Appeal from Republic of Uzbekistan Minister of Defense Affairs to Uzbek Servicemen Serving in the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States

I instruct you, dear compatriots serving in the Armed Forces, to conscientiously fulfill your sacred duty and the orders of commanders and chiefs and respect the laws of the states where you are serving.

Until all military questions are resolved by means of legislation I urge you to show restraint, discipline, organization, and order. Remember that any careless action on your part harms your republic's prestige.

I believe that Uzbek servicemen will not harm the honor and dignity of their parents and will sacredly fulfill the military obligations placed on them and justify the trust of the Uzbek people.

By instruction of the republic's government

[Signed] Major General R. Akhmedov, Republic of Uzbekistan Minister for Defense Affairs.

Legislature Transfers Military Units to Republic

LD2801091592 Moscow TASS in English
0722 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Tashkent January 28 TASS—The Uzbekistan parliament have adopted a resolution transferring all military units and military educational establishments located in Uzbekistan under the republic's control.

The decision, prompted by the fact that from February 1, 1992 general purpose forces will not be financed by former federal bodies, was made in accordance with the law "On Fundamentals of State Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and the Minsk agreement of the heads of state of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The resolution, however, does not affect strategic forces which will remain under control of the Commonwealth unified command.

Armenia

Nagorno-Karabakh Leader Visits Seeking Food Aid

NC2701202692 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] YERKIR paper reports that Oleg Yesayan, prime minister of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], is in Armenia on a working visit. According to the report, the prime minister's visit is connected with the procurement of foodstuffs for the republic.

There is a severe shortage of foodstuffs in the NKR capital. Villagers are providing some help to the city by sending it some of their meager stocks. The residents of Tog village in Gadruktskiy Rayon have sent flour, foodstuffs, and fruit to one of the districts of the capital.

Meets With Counterpart

NC2701215292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Babken Ararktsyan, chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, held a working meeting with Artur Mkrtchyan, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, on 27 January.

During the meeting, Mkrtchyan provided information about the parliamentary elections held in Nagorno-Karabakh, the progress in forming the government, and the measures being taken to provide the population with foodstuffs.

They examined various matters pertaining to the establishment of comprehensive cooperation between the two parliaments.

Village Shelled; Officials of Rayons Meet

NC2701202192 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1930 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] David-Bek village in Kapanskiy Rayon came under artillery shelling from Chardakhly village in Azerbaijan. The shells, which exploded in the air, fell on village homes. Two shells exploded in the village center. The tobacco drying plants outside the village were blown up. Fortunately, there were no casualties. The law enforcement bodies which arrived from Kapan prevented the village's self-defense detachments from launching a counter operation. They held a telephone conversation with the Azerbaijani side, after which the shelling ceased.

The 7th Army unit stationed near the village did not interfere.

[Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian at 1215 GMT on 27 January reports: "The once 'fraternal' rayons of Kapanskiy in Armenia and Lachinskiy in Azerbaijan are now hostile neighbors. Many clashes are taking place between them. But a series of recent meetings between internal affairs department

staffers from both rayons have brought some peace to the region. The peace recently has been broken only once. The leaders of the internal affairs departments of both rayons met over the incident. They clarified the issues under discussion. Special attention was given to ensuring the security of border village residents and to the gas supply through the Yevlakh-Stepanakert-Goris pipeline."]

Arutyunyan on Reducing Dependency on Russia

LD2701184992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Combat actions are not taking place on Armenian territory, but the republic's economy has for the fifth month running been virtually on a war footing. This was stated by republic Prime Minister Arutyunyan.

As the SNARK agency reports, he spoke at the republican conference taking place in Yerevan devoted to questions of economic policy.

Until recently, the Armenian prime minister noted, available fuel was sufficient only for household needs. Only a few days ago, about 100 industrial enterprises started working again. It is not ruled out, Arutyunyan said, that by the middle of this year Russia may introduce its own currency. Armenia should already be preparing for that. This means making structural changes in order, at least to some degree, to reduce the dependency of the republic's economy on outside factors.

Soviet To Invite Iranian Delegation for Visit

OW2401180392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 24 Jan 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Armenian parliament will invite a delegation of the Iranian Majlis.

Mr. Shavarsh Kocharyan, Vice-Chairman of the Armenian parliament's Commission for Foreign Relations, said that the decision had been taken two months before, when an Iranian delegation, led by Iran's Deputy-Foreign Minister, visited Armenia. "Geo-politically, we are in a 'bag'," said Mr. Kocharyan. "To get out of it we need to pursue a regional policy." He also said that at all appearances, the Iranian political quarters were interested in establishing normal relations with Armenia.

Azerbaijan

Mutalibov on 'Successful' Visit to Turkey

OW2801124692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1056 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov has described his recent official visit to Turkey as extremely successful. He told a news conference in Baku last Monday that an understanding was reached on opening an Azeri embassy in Ankara and a consulate in Istanbul as well as exchanging trade missions. Cooperation is planned in television and education, direct flights are to start from Baku to Istanbul.

Among the key results of the visit the Azeri president named the decision of the Turkish Government to provide Azerbaijan with one million tons of grain, one-tenth of it free, payments for the rest will be advantageous for Baku.

The president refuted reports that bilateral military cooperation was discussed.

According to Ayaz Mutalibov, Turkey said the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh should be settled by political means and expressed readiness to act as mediator. Azerbaijan intends to settle the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh itself "relying on political means," he said, and is opposed to internationalizing the conflict. "Appropriate prerequisites are necessary" he said, "including the withdrawal of all troops and units not under the jurisdiction of the republic."

Denies Plans To Unite Forces

*LD2701214692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Text] Ayaz Mutalibov, president of Azerbaijan, has denied reports carried by a number of mass media alleging that talks are underway to set up armed forces allied with Turkey. He addressed a news conference on 27 January, devoted to the results of his official visit to that country. In conversations with the Turkish leaders military issues were not touched upon at all, stated Ayaz Mutalibov. We were only interested in uniforms. I will not conceal this—it would be desirable if the soldiers of the national army, men and officers, should have their own uniforms, distinct from the ones used in the Armed Forces of the former Union, now the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mutalibov on Relations With Arab States, Army

*NC2701150092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT
27 Jan 92*

[Text] Baku, 27 Jan (MENA)—Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov has emphasized that his people have much respect and appreciation for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people, adding that the two countries are linked historically and have common traditions which can form a basis for promoting relations in various fields.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Mutalibov said Egypt was one of the first states to recognize his republic's independence and that the Egyptian products exhibition held recently in Baku helped acquaint Azerbaijanis with Egypt's considerable industrial progress.

Mutalibov noted that his country recognizes the weight which Egypt and President Mubarak carry at the international level. Therefore, he added, Azerbaijan believes the development of relations with Egypt is inevitable for opening up his country to the world and developing its national economy to overcome the current economic crisis.

Mutalibov appealed to Arab states to give urgent assistance to the Muslim Azerbaijani people because of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the declining ties of integration which once linked the former Soviet republics. He stressed that the soundness of a state's economy is a certain guarantee for protecting political independence and barring the return of the previous ruling powers.

In his interview with MENA, Mutalibov said his country already has begun approving legislation that is consistent with international laws to attract foreign investment, restructure the banking system, and open the door to joint ventures. He called on Egyptian businessmen to examine Azerbaijani potential and contribute to its development through investment projects. He affirmed that his country will provide full guarantees for these investments.

President Mutalibov commended the project to establish a joint Egyptian-Azerbaijani bank, noting that the idea can be applied to all Arab states to bolster economic cooperation and trade exchange with Azerbaijan.

Responding to a question on current living conditions in Azerbaijan, Mutalibov said prices recently rose sharply. Although we have raised salaries, the rate of price increases remains much higher, he said. We are working intensively to protect low-income groups and the poor by granting financial aid to large families, he said, adding that a decision to reduce bread prices by 30 percent will come into effect on 1 February.

Touching on Azerbaijan's stand on the Soviet debt, Mutalibov said: First, we should acknowledge overdue Soviet debts. But, he added, we have the right to know the assets and liabilities. He further explained: We do not know the exact size of these debts and the creditor and debtor countries.

Touching on the major issues facing the new Commonwealth of Independent States, Mutalibov pointed out that the central issue at present is the future of the federal army, on which the various republics have different views. He said a number of republics believe in the need to maintain a federated army, while others believe that every republic is entitled to a national army. He said Azerbaijan plans to set up its own independent national army first, then determine the formula of cooperation

with the other republics, because it believes that an army is an important sign of national independence.

Speaking about the domestic situation in his country, he said the Azerbaijanis are a moderate people who do not believe in religious extremism. He said his country is linked to Iran with "good-neighborly relations based on non-interference in domestic affairs." He added that his country adopts the multiparty system, which approves of different political parties and movements. He noted that the Republic's Supreme Council soon will conclude discussion of the party law.

Azerbaijan is one of the Muslim Central Asian republics. Its 7 million people live on 86,800 square km rich with oil, iron, alabaster, cotton, grain, vines, tea, citrus fruits, and vegetables.

Armenia Criticized Over Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2701202892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] President of Azerbaijan Ayaz Mutalibov highlighted the problem of a Nagorno-Karabakh settlement at a news conference held today.

[Begin Mutalibov recording] We today favor peaceful settlement of the conflict, which was foisted upon us, so to speak, and which rests upon absolutely clear territorial claims. But at the same time I have expressed my regret with regard to the fact that certain forces of the world press, anti-Azerbaijani forces, interpret these events strictly along the lines of a certain direction, making out that it is the fault of the Azerbaijani side, the ultimate pleasure for which lies in attacking Armenians, burning down their homes and settlements. However, in reality things are quite opposite.

At the same time, I have stressed that we support peaceful settlement of this issue. We do not want to drag anyone into this matter. This is our internal issue. It is of a fundamental character for Azerbaijan. Whatever hardships we experience, whatever losses we incur, we cannot and will not appeal to whatever international institutes to internationalize this conflict, so to speak, as Armenians would like it. [end recording]

Nagorno-Karabakh Leader To Form Government

LD2601001292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1357 GMT 22 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Stepanakert (Khankendi), 22 Jan (TASS)—Oleg Yesayan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Council of Ministers, has been tasked with forming a government for the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic within the shortest

possible time. This was decided at the first meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

As Oleg Yesayan reported to a TASS correspondent, stabilizing the political and economic life of Nagorno-Karabakh needs to be considered in the near future.

The strategical situation in the area also remains complex. According to reports from the administration of internal affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, the towns of Stepanakert (Khankendi) and Martuni were subjected to missile and artillery fire last night. There is damage. One resident was seriously injured. There were skirmishes on the outskirts of the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic today as well. No reports of casualties have been received.

20 Killed in Nagorno-Karabakh Village

LD2701161192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1507 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Khankendi (Stepanakert), 27 Jan (TASS)—Twenty civilians and self-defense fighters died on 26 January as a result of an attack by subunits of the Azerbaijani Army on the Armenian village of Karin-Tak (Dashalty) in Shushinskiy rayon, Nagorno-Karabakh. The same number of people were injured.

It was reported to the TASS correspondent in the republican headquarters of the self-defense forces that several buildings were set on fire, but the village succeeded in holding out. According to a report from Karin-Tak, the attackers left more than 60 dead on the battlefield. No news of casualties has been received from official Azerbaijani sources.

According to information from the headquarters of the self-defense forces, attempts were made last night and this morning by the Armenian side to suppress fire points from which rocket and artillery fire on Khankendi is conducted.

Combat action in the conflict zone is continuing.

Georgia

Unrest Continues; Gamsakhurdia Location Uncertain

Government Restoration Urged

OW2801021992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, of Georgia, has urged the United Nations and the peoples and governments of all countries to "expose the flagrant abuse of human rights in Georgia by a military junta and to

demand the restoration of constitutionally elected authorities to the republic".

IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent in Grozny received a copy of Gamsakhurdia's hand-written appeal from the Chechen Interior Minister Shamil Beno on Monday [26 January]. The Interior Minister neither confirmed nor denied the reports that the ousted President was in the capital of the Chechen republic.

In his appeal Gamsakhurdia says that in January 1992 a military coup took place in Tbilisi. He argues that the coup was staged by a military junta of political adventurers and criminal clans. As a result of the war against legally elected authorities, hundreds of people died and there were fires in the capital Tbilisi. Gamsakhurdia says the "junta burnt down the building of parliament, raided and looted my home, which at the same time is a museum house of my father, prominent novelist Konstantin Gamsakhurdia".

Zviad Gamsakhurdia says that the people of Georgia have risen in revolt against lawlessness and abuse and declared a campaign of civil disobedience to the junta. "Industries, railways and sea ports are on strike and the energy and food crisis has reached the limit", Gamsakhurdia says.

In his appeal Zviad Gamsakhurdia says that he left the capital together with his family because he did not want further bloodshed.

Plane Seized in Moscow

LD2701212992 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] As soon as it was learned that the same mysterious plane aboard which Georgian President Gamsakhurdia had flown from Armenia to Sukhumi and then the plane had made several flights between Sukhumi and Grozny according to reports by the current Government of Georgia; as soon as it was learned that after refuelling in Grozny the plane had flown to Moscow, our correspondent Etibar Dzhabarov flew quickly to Vnukovo airport. We did not think he would have time but he managed to get a report for our program.

[Dzhabarov] Ex-President Gamsakhurdia's plane today arrived in Vnukovo. Flying on the Sukhumi-Moscow route, the crew switched off the radar and identification signals. It turned out that at the controls was pilot Beygiye, who had had his pilot license revoked. Now he has been taken to Tbilisi under escort. About 40 of the provincial passengers devoted to Gamsakhurdia have seized the plane and are demanding the release of the pilot. Several hours ago they announced a hunger strike. In response, in Sukhumi a Moscow flight has been forbidden to fly out and the crew has been detained. Thus the Georgian conflict has been exported to Moscow on the former president's plane. All the airport services are

ready to supply the plane with fuel and a crew so the passengers can be taken to Tbilisi, but the hijackers have refused.

Gamsakhurdia Said in Grozny

LD2701161692 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1525 GMT 27 Jan 92

[TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Jan TASS—Zviad Gamsakhurdia is in Grozny, Tengiz Sigua, Prime Minister of Georgia's provisional government, reported at a press conference today. He also gave details of the "shuttle" flights of the TU-134 aircraft which brought the former President from Yerevan and then made repeated flights between Grozny and Sukhumi.

He said that the aircraft took off and made its flights in crude violation of safety rules. In particular, the "Identify Friend or Foe" system on board was switched off. Some flights had no navigator, that is, the captain was navigating by visual information only.

The aircraft and the crew, which yesterday departed from Sukhumi and then, after an intermediate stop in Grozny, landed in Moscow, were detained at Vnukovo airport. The aircraft and the crew will be brought to Tbilisi in the near future, Tengiz Sigua said.

Report Denied

LD2801103792 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 0930 GMT 28 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Grozny, 28 Jan (TASS)—Yesterday's report by Tengiz Sigua, prime minister of the Georgian provisional government, that Zviad Gamsakhurdia is in Grozny has been denied by an informed source at Grozny Airport who wishes to remain anonymous. He telephoned the TASS correspondent's office in Grozny and assured him that this was all just supposition on the part of Georgia's provisional government.

At the same time, the press and security services of President Dzhokhar Dudayev of the Chechen Republic continue to refuse to provide journalists with any kind of information about the location of the Georgian president. However, a multitude of oblique pieces of evidence allows one to suppose that Zviad Gamsakhurdia is today outside the borders of Georgia.

Government Building Blockade Denied

LD2701172692 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1705 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 January (TASS)—Tengiz Sigua, head of the Georgian provisional government, has rejected

reports in the media about the blockade of the government building by supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia. This was stated at a press conference today.

Troops Warned To Fight

*LD2701172992 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1555 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Jan (TASS)—When faced with direct assault, "servicemen must defend themselves using weapons and act in accordance with their oath and the requirements of regulations," Col.-Gen. Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of troops of the Trans-Caucasian Military District (TCMD), said in a statement. The commander made this statement in connection with the increasingly frequent attacks by Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters on TCMD units in western Georgia.

"These demands have been conveyed to all the commanding officers of the district's units," the document says. "There can be no compromises on this matter. Administrative measures will be applied to those commanders who fail to carry out the requirements of the regulations and surrender weapons without putting up a fight. Experience shows that when our servicemen show resoluteness and will, and act courageously and with initiative, weapons, as a rule, remain in place and people are safe. In my view, a bandit has no nationality and must be treated as a bandit."

Sukhumi, Abkhazia 'Unstable'

*OW2701135892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1255 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation in the capital of Abkhazia Sukhumi remains unstable. [INTERFAX] IF's correspondent reports that Gamsakhurdia's supporters continue rallies. Railway traffic and a number of major industrial enterprises have stopped.

The Abkhaz parliament met for a session Sunday [26 January]. A Georgian delegation including members of the "Round Table—Free Georgia" political bloc which had supported Zviad Gamsakhurdia at the presidential election boycotted the session. The delegation explained that the session was expected to discuss Abkhazia's separation from Georgia.

As IF reported earlier, ex-president of Georgia Zviad Gamsakhurdia urged his supporters to step up actions of disobedience in Abkhazia, to hold rallies and demonstrations in connection with Abkhazia's plans to separate from Georgia.

Zugdidi Blockaded

*LD2701135792 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1310 GMT 27 Jan 92*

[By TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Jan (TASS)—"We will not hold any talks with the temporary Georgian government," Kobalia, the Prefect of the town of Zugdidi, has declared. "Any attempt to take the town by force will be met with a worthy rebuff from armed detachments loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Republic's President."

In a telephone conversation with the TASS correspondent the head of the administration of this town where the main forces of the ex-president are concentrated stressed that they have enough forces and arms at their disposal to protect Zugdidi.

Commenting on this statement, Tsiskarishvili, chief state advisor on foreign relations to the Georgian prime minister, noted that the reluctance of Zviad Gamsakhurdia supporters to hold negotiations, as well as their continuing blockade of the republic's vital transport arteries, are catastrophically escalating the food situation. This stance by the opposing side will force the provisional government and military leadership of the republic to resort in the near future to the use of force to clear the railways and roads, the prime minister's adviser said.

Supporters Maintain Positions

*LD2801092392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 28 Jan 92*

[Excerpt] In western Georgia, detachments of the National Guard are located 15 km from Zugdidi. Supporters of toppled President Gamsakhurdia are maintaining positions in Zugdidi. The interim representative of the new authorities has taken up his duties in Poti, and the unloading of wheat from ships has begun there. However, yesterday, evil-doers damaged the rails in the maritime port, and the unloading was halted. One person died yesterday during an armed clash. [passage omitted]

Government Controls Poti

*LD2801111892 Moscow TASS in English
1051 GMT 28 Jan 92*

[by TASS correspondents Igor Gvritishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 28 TASS—A unit of Georgian governmental troops got in an ambush last night in the outskirts of the city of Poti in western Georgia, local police told TASS on Tuesday [28 January]. One soldier and two military doctors were killed in the shooting and two soldiers seriously wounded. The supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia also suffered

losses: three people were killed and 10 wounded. The report was confirmed by the Georgian Military Council.

The governmental troops took the city under control early on Tuesday and are patrolling the streets.

The situation remains tense in Zugdidi—another city in western Georgia. Gamsakhurdia's supporters stage round-the-clock demonstrations there, Indiko Kobalia, the mayor of the city, told TASS. "The city will not surrender and is rejecting all proposals from the governmental troops to start negotiations", he added.

Situation 'Far From Stable'

OW2801123592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1056 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation in West Georgia where the ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia has many supporters is far from stable. According to the press center of the Georgian Military council last Monday there was an armed clash in the approaches of Poti between National Guards and supporters of Gamsakhurdia in which one Guard reportedly died and several were wounded. Nothing is said of the losses of the other side.

In another West Georgian town, Senaki, the situation worsened after it was left by National Guards and the militarized organization Mkhedrioni last Monday. Gamsakhurdia's supporters held a rally demanding the resignation of a representative of the military council and burned his car.

The prefect of the home town of the ex-president Zugdidi reportedly refused to continue talks with representatives of the Military Council on Monday.

According to the press center of the Georgian Interior Ministry, over 50 body-guards of Gamsakhurdia who supported him during his flight from Tbilisi at the beginning of the month have picked up arms again. Earlier they were disarmed in Ijevan, Armenia, and left Armenia. The press center claimed that these persons have joined Gamsakhurdia's supporters in Zugdidi and Poti.

Signa on Economic Agreement Signed With Russia

LD2701180292 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1728 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Igor Gvritshvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Jan (TASS)—Georgia has signed an economic agreement with Russia. This was reported today at a news conference given by Tengiz Sigua, prime minister of the republican provisional government. He said that since the first days it came to power, the new government had established regular contacts with the Russian leadership, as a result of which the text of an economic agreement, which the Georgian side has already signed and sent to Moscow, has been agreed upon. A similar agreement is also being prepared for signing with other states of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic republics.

In describing the political situation in Georgia, the prime minister noted a clear trend toward its stabilization. At the same time, he said, numerous rallies and demonstrations by supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia are being held in Tbilisi every day. To date, about 50 people have been arrested for infringing the passport regulations, including 20 women, who at one time or another had served sentences for various crimes and had been released on a decree by Gamsakhurdia on condition that they give him active support.

Tengiz Sigua also noted that the situation in Zugdidi is still unclear. The local authorities, who support the former president, are refusing to hold talks with representatives of the provisional government and are prepared to enter into armed confrontation. The situation in Poti, where the unloading of food and its delivery to other regions of the republic has begun, is gradually returning to normal.

Speaking about relations with other states, Tengiz Sigua stressed that to date 24 countries have recognized Georgia.

Government Welcomes Human Rights Experts

LD2601182392 Moscow TASS in English
1728 GMT 26 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 26 TASS—Complying with a statement by "Helsinki Watch" organization that there had reportedly been some cases of violation of the human rights in Georgia, an official spokesman for the interim government announced that the local authorities are ready to receive foreign experts for domestic research of the situation.

Estonia**Candidates for Prime Minister Being Considered****Ruutel Bows Out**

OW2501200592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1535 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ulo Nugis, speaker of the Estonian parliament, has told BF [BALTFAX] that candidates for the post of Estonia's prime minister will most likely be nominated next Monday [27 January]. He said the list might include the names of Transport Minister Tiit Vahi and Justice Minister Juri Raidla from the Edgar Savisaar cabinet that resigned on Thursday [23 January]. According to Nugis, the head of Estonian parliament Arnold Ruutel will not run for premier, although he has been regarded as a possible candidate.

Party 'Activists' Consulted

OW2501214492 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1535 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [24 January], Arnold Ruutel met with political party activists to discuss the formation of a new republican government. His press service reports that the meeting involved Paul-Erik Rummo of the Liberal Democratic Party, Illar Halaste of the Christian-Democratic Union, Ulo Parnits of the Union of Labor Staffs, Juri Adams and Ants Erm of the National Independence Party, and representatives of other political organizations.

The consultations will continue on Sunday [26 January], when A. Ruutel meets with municipal officials.

Presidium Approves Vahi

OW2701151092 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1356 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] BF's [BALTFAX's] correspondent reports from Tallinn that the Estonian Supreme Council Presidium has approved the candidacy of Tiit Vahi for the post of the head of the government. In the cabinet which resigned on January 23 Vahi served as transport communication minister. His candidacy will be submitted to the Estonian parliament by Tuesday [28 January].

According to well-informed sources, Vahi's candidacy was supported by many political parties and movements. At the end of last week, consultations with them were held. The Estonian Supreme Council chairman's press office reports that at a meeting with head of parliament Arnold Ruutel Sunday [26 January] mayors of Estonian cities and elders of districts also spoke in favor of Vahi's

candidacy. Participants in the meeting also called for the entrance of many ministers of the resigned government into a new one.

Arnold Ruutel who was proposed for the post of prime minister by Edgar Savisaar and some other political figures withdrew his candidacy referring to the necessity of abiding by the principle of power division.

Former Minister Chosen

LD2701221792 Tallinn Estonian Radio in English
2130 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The political situation in Estonia has been very tense and confused during the past week. This culminated in the resignation of the prime minister and his government.

The Presidium of the Estonian Supreme Council has coped with the task of nominating the new prime minister within two weeks. Today, the Chairman of the Supreme Council Arnold Ruutel announced that the former Minister of Transportation Tiit Vahi has been asked to form a new Government.

When the Government resigned last Thursday [23 January], it came as no surprise. A week before, Prime Minister Savisaar had requested special powers to deal with the newly declared state of emergency. This was the move that increased the resentment in the opposition. [passage omitted: Radio Estonia political commentator analyzes the situation]

So the former Minister of Transportation Tiit Vahi has now been asked to form a new government within two weeks.

His candidacy was approved by district governors and the mayors of Estonian towns. According to Estonian President Arnold Ruutel, Tiit Vahi is to meet with the leaders of the political parties and parliamentary factions tomorrow.

Tiit Vahi came to the government as the head of the Transportation Committee in 1989. Commenting on the proposition of forming the new government, Tiit Vahi said: I was hesitant before and I still am; the political and economic situation is really confused and difficult, but somebody has to form a new government and therefore I agreed.

He added that the first aim of his program is to provide the country with food and heating. Other major concerns are the introduction of Estonia's own currency and the implementation of property reform. Pressing political issues to be dealt with are the citizenship law, the adopting of the new Constitution and the organization of elections. He described the program as a team program.

The nomination of Tiit Vahi may be a little unexpected because he is not known as an active politician.

Political commentator for Radio Estonia [name indistinct]:

[Begin commentator recording] He has been more or less neutral politically and that's what's needed now because the new prime minister should not have strong political affiliations with any of the parties in Estonia. So he should be neutral to a great degree and Tiit Vahi seems to be (words indistinct). [passage omitted: commentator goes on to discuss need for neutrality of his ministers as well] Tiit Vahi now has two weeks to form his government and we'll keep you informed on his progress here on Estonia Today. [end recording]

Military Concerns Top Governmental Agenda

Ammunition Sales Permitted

LD2401223692 Moscow *POSTFACTUM* in English
2030 GMT 24 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] The sixty-first parliamentary session of the Estonian Supreme Soviet adopted a decree on 23 January permitting commercial deals on selling property and military ammunition as well as real estate located in Estonia only through the republican government.

According to reliable sources close to the high military command of the Estonian republic, the Soviet army servicemen began to seal up the arsenals in Estonia on the personal order of Marshal Shaposhnikov.

Soviet Army Property 'Seized'

PM2701145092 Moscow *IZVESTIYA* in Russian
27 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Leonid Levitskiy: "Army Left With Nothing But Its Red Banners"]

[Text] Tallinn—The Estonian parliament has declared the buildings, installations, gear, property, combat equipment, and weapons of units of the former Soviet Army on its territory to be the republic's property.

The resolution provoked disputes both within the hall of sessions and outside it. It is indeed contentious.

Two weeks ago Russia took under its jurisdiction the Northwestern Group of Forces. That is what the Baltic Military District is now called. So it transpires that Estonia has "seized" the property and weapons of a neighboring state. If you take into account the fact that in the republic there are naval bases and an air defense division with the most up-to-date missiles, as well as other subunits equipped with the latest hardware, then Russia is losing many billions of rubles.

Arguments in favor of "nationalization": The USSR seized the arms of the Estonian army in 1940, and other republics, for instance Ukraine, have also taken over all the property and arms of the Soviet Army, even the Black Sea Fleet.

Counterarguments: Ukraine did not take over the property, but the military units, which are changing their command and state affiliation. Estonia is demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Soviet Army, and now of the Russian Army, and that it should be disarmed into the bargain. Leaving it with nothing but its red banners.

The Russian Supreme Soviet has just ratified a treaty on relations with Estonia. Under the treaty all property disputes must be resolved by separate agreements. The Estonian parliament has resorted to a unilateral step.

The opinion of the commanders of the military units and naval bases is unequivocal. It was expressed by Major General Z. Abdurakhmanov, commander of the air defense division, and Vice Admiral Yu. Belov: The military will be guided by the decisions of the Armed Forces and Navy command. No one will get so much as a pistol out of the Army without orders.

Talks With Baltic Commanders

LD2601000992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network
in Estonian 1800 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Matti Pedak, councillor of the Estonian Government, told BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that recently no official talks have taken place in regard to the withdrawal of CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] forces stationed in Estonia. Russia, as the USSR's legal successor, has not set up any commission or delegation of its own for the talks.

Pedak asserted that he has been holding unofficial talks with commanders of the Baltic Fleet stationed in Tallinn about possible fuel aid. The commanders of the military units stationed in Estonia, however, cannot decide this issue on their own. They need agreement from the leadership of the CIS Armed Forces or the president of Russia. It is still unclear about whether CIS military units will leave their arms and military technology to Estonia.

Toomas Puura, head of the state and border defense department, told BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that the USSR did everything so that Estonia could not acquire arms or technology. Mr. Puura could not say if the attitude has changed now that the USSR no longer exists. According to Puura, about 50 percent of those forces located in Estonia in August 1991 have now left Estonian territory.

Ants Laaneots, acting chief of general staff of the Republic of Estonia defense forces, stated to BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that things are not progressing smoothly in regard to the formation of the Estonian defense forces. He says 100 million rubles are supposed to be allocated from the state budget as state defense expenses in 1992. So far the state budget has not yet been adopted. The value of the ruble is declining so rapidly that 100 million rubles will no longer suffice. If things continue like this, you could just about buy lunch once with this money, Mr. Laaneots commented. He voiced

hope that by the summer about 2,000 men will be in the Republic of Estonia's defense forces.

So far the issue of obtaining arms has been left open. Talks on this subject are currently not being held, because Russia, as the USSR's legal successor, has not taken any steps. Commanders of the CIS military units stationed here are completely in the dark about their future, according to Ants Laaneots.

INTERFAX issued a report according to which Estonian political and military circles are deliberating about the possibility that CIS military units' withdrawal from Estonia need not be increased if the military units are willing to leave their arms and military technology here free of charge. Laaneots refuted this report, saying that demands remain the same: the foreign army must leave Estonia by the middle of next year at the latest.

State Minister Vare Holds News Conference

LD2701100892 Moscow TASS in English
0925 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] Helsinki January 27 TASS— "Estonia's security will be best guaranteed if it becomes a fully fledged member of NATO. But now it is impossible. This is why Estonia seeks guarantees for its security in other forms of international cooperation," Estonian State Minister Raivo Vare told a press conference here on Sunday (26 January). He arrived in Finland to attend a seminar on problems of security, arranged by the union of societies contributing to Finland's defence.

"The dangers looming over Finland [as received] tend to change with time, but the biggest threat from the East is permanent," Vare said. "Even bilateral treaties do not ensure security. More reliable guarantees are needed," he noted.

Vare warned against dangers engendered by the relaxation of tension and growing East-West cooperation. He particularly noted the cooperation between Russia and Germany, which, in his opinion, may confront the Baltic republics with new problems.

"We must bear in mind," he said, "that Germany is now a powerful state and its economic cooperation with Russia is growing steadily. Political agreements between them are possible in the future. The Baltic states have bitter memories of such agreements."

"Estonia must have its own armed forces, although it is absolutely clear that the country lacks means to ensure its security," Vare noted. In his opinion, Estonia should have a small, but very mobile and well-armed army. Estonia expects Finland to train its servicemen and create its borderguard troops.

Vare expressed the conviction that all Soviet troops would be withdrawn from Estonian territory by the end of 1992.

Rocket Explodes at Military Base, Kills One

OW2801033392 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1830 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to BF's [BALTFAX] sources, a rocket exploded during takeoff at the Lobi military base in Northern Estonia on January 24, crippling three 19-year-old soldiers. One of them died of wounds in a hospital in Rakvere, another lost his leg, and the third received severe burns.

Vaino Sarnet, deputy leader of the district of Laane Virumaa, told BF what was left of the rocket had dropped into the sea. The local authorities have not been informed of the accident's details so far.

Savisaar Warns of 'Radical Nationalist' Threat

OW2501214692 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1535 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia's ex-Premier Edgar Savisaar has warned that a major threat is being posed to his country by the "uncompromising policy of revanchism" pursued by the radical nationalists. As an illustration he cited Friday's [24 January] incident whereby volunteers from the KAISELIJT organization had tried to seize firearms from an army unit. A report from the unit stationed in Kohila says armed Estonian volunteers and policemen "tried to storm into the grounds of the military unit and demanded firearms."

According to Heldur Toomet, KAISELIJT's chief of staff, five members of his organization and 1 policeman only controlled traffic on the road to the anti-aircraft defense base at Kohila, sitting in a car some 100 meters away from the army unit's gate.

Latvia

Annexation of Lands in 1944 Deemed Illegal

PM2701143992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
27 Jan 92 p 2

[Report by correspondent Oleg Meshkov: "What Might Delay Ratification"]

[Text] Riga—In a long policy article published in the newspaper DIENA Ya. Freymanis [name as transliterated], member of the Latvian Supreme Council Foreign Affairs Commission, has stated that a further deterioration in relations between the Baltic countries and their eastern neighbor is in the offing. On this occasion he is referring to the Russian Federation.

Talking about the strategic interests of Russia's imperial circles and the Army hawks in the Baltic in hanging on to

the Baltic states and maintaining their economic subjugation, the writer cites as confirmation of this the actions taken by Russian State Secretary G. Burbulis on the threshold of an economic and trade blockade of the Baltic. The deputy called for a more stringent policy to be pursued with regard to eastern neighbors.

As if heeding their colleague's appeal, the very next day Latvian parliamentarians adopted a resolution deeming illegal the annexation of Latvia's eastern lands in August 1944 by the former USSR. This refers to six districts [volost] of the Abrene region [uyezd], which became part of the RSFSR's Pskov Oblast. Under the aforesaid resolution the border between Latvia and Russia will now be determined by the 1920 peace treaty between these states.

It has been calculated that the total damage suffered by the Latvian side as a result of the violation of the treaty amounts to \$5 billion. The parliamentary deputies did not demand the immediate return of the territory, but the restoration of historic justice should be the basis for interstate talks.

Supreme Council Resolution

LD2601133992 Riga Radio Riga International
in Latvian 0530 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Last week the Latvian Supreme Council, in accord with a proposal by the Satversme faction, adopted the first resolution concerning the territorial question of Latvia.

This resolution states:

Taking into consideration the fact that the six rural districts [pagasts] of the Abrene district of the Republic of Latvia, and the town of Abrene have joined the Russian Federation, thus transgressing against the Peace Treaty dated 11 August 1920 between Latvia and Russia, the treaty between Latvia and the USSR concluded in Riga on 5 February 1932, and also on the basis that the annexation of this territory has been carried out during the occupation of Latvia, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia declares as invalid the regulations on the entire territory of Latvia within the decree adopted by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on 23 August 1944 on the formation of the Pskov oblast within the composition of the Russian Federation.

The Supreme Council also declares other resolutions which concern this territorial question as invalid.

Russian Military Property Decision Protested

'Attempts To Interfere' Cited

LD2401230192 Riga Radio Riga International
in English 2130 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Latvia protests against Russian Defense Ministry attempts to interfere in its internal affairs. A note of protest has been sent by Latvia's Foreign Ministry to its

Russian counterpart following the attempt of Russia's Defense Ministry to maintain control over a military plant in a western port city of Latvia.

According to a decision of the Russian deputy defense minister, the plant must remain under Army's jurisdiction and must have a director appointed by the Russian Ministry of Defense.

All formerly Moscow-(?steered) industrial enterprises situated in Latvia have passed under Latvian legislation, beginning with November last year, the note of Latvian Foreign Ministry says.

This is the second note of protest from Latvia to the Russian Foreign Ministry in two months' time. The first one condemned intentions of the former Soviet Armed Forces still situated in Latvia to organize large-scale maneuvers in January without asking permission from Latvia's Government beforehand.

Shipyard Contended

OW2401172292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1435 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Foreign Ministry has sent the Russian Foreign Ministry a protest against the attempt to replace the director of Liepaja's ship-repair yard No. 29 which was declared Latvia's property.

The order to do so has arrived from the Commonwealth's Naval Commander, Admiral Chernavskiy.

The note of protest expresses surprise over the replacement and says that such moves raise obstacles in relations between Russia and Latvia.

No Large-Scale Privatization in Near Future

OW2501195992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1535 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anatolijs Gorbunovs, head of the Latvian parliament, has said no large-scale privatization should be expected in the republic in the near future, "since there is a decision to return the property nationalized in 1940 to its former owners." He expressed doubt, however, as to whether the ex-owners would be able to organize production at the industrial facilities to be returned to them. One way out, he said, would be to offer them monetary compensation—but Latvia has no hard currency for the purpose.

News Conference Discusses Russian Inhabitants

PM2401165692 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 22 Jan 92 p 3

[Report by Captain 3d Rank A. Pelts from Moscow under the "Direct Line" rubric: "The 'Russian Question'

Exists in Latvia. But All the Conditions Exist for Resolving It, in the View of the Director of the Department on Questions of Nationalities"]

[Text] The first press conference devoted to problems of ensuring human rights was held at the permanent mission of the Latvian Republic in Moscow. Answering journalists' questions were Mr. Janis Skrastins, the republic's general prosecutor, and Mr. Vladimir Steshenko, director of the department for questions of nationalities.

During the press conference particular attention was devoted to the problem of the so-called Russian-speaking population. They account for nearly 35 percent of the republic's inhabitants. The department spokesman singled out three aspects necessary to ensure to the utmost their rights and freedoms and the effective resolution of the problems that exist.

In his opinion, first of all it is necessary to begin active dialogue with the corresponding Russian state organs, and such dialogue has, alas, not yet been set up. Effective joint work, this time on a permanent footing, will also be promoted by the opening of a consulate or Russian permanent mission in Latvia. And the third point is that the rights and interests of the largest national ethnic group are directly dependent on external conditions.

Republic General Prosecutor Mr. Janis Skrastins, who came to the press conference straight from the airport, basically answered questions relating to the operations of the Riga OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] in December-January last year. The prosecutor said that there is no special Parfenov or Rubiks case. The main task is to find out who planned to seize power in the republic by force. Only after that will it be possible to give appropriate legal assessments of each case.

Nonetheless Sergey Parfenov still languishes in a prison cell...

Statistics Indicate Significant Price Increases

LD2701102192 Riga Radio Riga International
in Latvian 2030 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The Latvian State Statistics Committee reports that, after the liberalization of food prices in Latvia, prices have increased by 303.45 percent, in comparison with November of last year. The minimum sum for consumption subsistence, at December prices, was, as a guide, 770 rubles, including 490 rubles for food, per month.

The total volume of industrial production in Latvia has remained as before, although the total volume of production at state industrial enterprises has diminished by 389.4 million rubles—that is, by 2.1 percent. At the same time, the production of entrepreneurial companies and foreign joint enterprises has risen considerably, doubling at the entrepreneurial companies and increasing fourfold at foreign joint enterprises.

In the meat industry production diminished by 298 million rubles, and in the butter and cheese industry by 123 million rubles.

In Latvia last year a very great many stoppages occurred, the majority of which were caused by a shortage of raw materials. These stoppages occurred at the larger industrial enterprises. Thus, for example, stoppages in December caused a loss in production of 2.1 percent of the total volume of state production.

Lithuania

Russia Cuts Oil Supplies to Mazeikiai Refinery

LD2701233892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Fuel reserves are fast being depleted in Lithuania, owing to the fact that, as of today, Russia has cut back oil supplies once again. This leaves the republic only the [word indistinct] amount vital to maintain continuous processing at the Mazeikiai Oil Refinery Plant. Further significant supplies of fuel from Russia are not guaranteed. [words indistinct]

The government of the Lithuanian Republic has decided to permit the Energy Ministry to oblige state, state joint-stock companies, and other industrial enterprises to reduce, by an average of 25 percent, heating energy as well as (?gas) consumption, from 28 January. The government is also permitting a decrease by 5-50 degrees [words indistinct] used for heating residential establishments with the existence of favorable weather conditions.

[Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English on 27 January adds the following: "At 1:10 PM today, Russia cut off the supply of oil for the Mazeikiai Oil Refinery. As deputy head of the enterprise's production department, Vytautas Strikauskas, explained to Radio Vilnius, the supply of oil will be resumed tomorrow morning in reduced quantities and will continue, at this level, to the end of the month. Russia began to reduce the supply of oil as soon as the quota to supply Lithuania, according to agreement, this month was nearly fulfilled. According to the previous day's volume of supplies, which still guarantees the enterprise's normal work, the refinery would need 90,000 pounds of oil till the end of the month, while in accordance with the January quota, Russia is going to supply but 45 pounds [as heard]."

"According to the representative of the enterprise's administration, there is no information about the supply of oil in February, but a preliminary agreement has been reached that the shortage of oil in the last days of January will be compensated [?for] the extent of the February quota."

Deliveries From Russia 'Remain Irregular'

*LD2701143192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International
Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] Lithuanian Economy Minister Albertas Simenas told the cabinet meeting today that in spite of the Lithuanian-Russian agreement, the supplies of material resources from Russia remain irregular. Negotiations are currently under way between top officials of various departments in Vilnius and Moscow. There are still no guarantees that the situation will change for the better in the very near future.

Economic relations with the Ukraine are also very complicated. Irregular supplies of material resources are disrupting the work of Lithuania's enterprises.

An opinion was expressed at the cabinet meeting that, to ensure stable work by strategically important industrial enterprises, hard currency should be allocated for the purchase of some raw materials and the most necessary equipment in the West.

According to Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius, the cabinet's second most important aim is to provide the Lithuanian population at least with a minimal quantity of food products. Food prices are much higher in all the countries neighboring Lithuania, and this makes the solution of the problem more difficult. To stop the taking away of food products abroad, from now on the purchase prices of animals are no longer restricted, and soon the purchase prices of milk will not be restricted, too. Thus retail prices will increase, too. Therefore the government has decided once again to increase salaries, retirement, and other payments.

It was also decided to take additional resolute measures to strengthen the protection of the Lithuanian economic border.

Government Raises Oil Product Prices

*PM270115792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Nikolay Lashkevich report: "Lithuania Raises Prices of Petroleum Products"]

[Text] Vilnius—Because of the increase in the prices of petroleum and other imported raw-material resources and the threat of a fuel and energy crisis, the Lithuanian Government has set new prices in the republic's energy system.

Unified prices are being introduced for all consumers: 4,725 rubles [R] per tonne for A-76 gasoline; R5,400 for A-92 gasoline; and R3,630 for diesel fuel. A new markup on petroleum products has been set for consumers—R97 per tonne. Coal for heating accommodation will henceforth cost a resident of the republic R166 per tonne. Natural gas used to heat homes will cost householders

R302.4 for 1,000 cubic meters of gas. An average tariff of 35 kopeks per kilowatt/hour has been set for all consumers of electricity.

The new prices will undoubtedly hit the family budget of the republic's inhabitants hard. Although this measure will not have a stabilizing effect on the supply of raw-material energy resources, it could lead to more economical expenditure of fuel and electricity by all consumers. At any rate, it provides preconditions for the strict observance of the policy of thrift recently established in Lithuania. It is now an unaffordable luxury for a resident not to switch the light off on leaving a room.

Lithuanian Prime Minister G. Vagnorius has told General V. Mironov, commander of the Northwest Group of Forces, and Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces, that the supply of electricity to civilian and military installations will be reduced if Russia fails to fulfill interstate agreements on the supply of petroleum products, gas, and other output.

Purchase prices have been increased even for surrendered secondary raw materials. They now pay R500 for a tonne of waste paper and up to R480 for rags. In short, Lithuania, which is standing on the threshold of a fuel and energy famine, is seeking to protect itself against such a somber prospect by all possible means.

Landsbergis Views 'Hard Times,' Nuclear Arms

*LD2401143992 London ITV Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 23 Jan 92*

["Channel 4 News" interview with Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis by correspondent Jon Snow in London on 23 January—recorded]

[Text] [Snow] Earlier, I spoke to the president of the Baltic state of Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis. He was on a visit to London. I asked him if he thinks the West is doing enough to tackle the current crisis.

[Landsbergis] They are now hard times—in Russia especially. The rest of the countries must help extremely. But, it is also a good occasion to resolve the problem of dissolution of nuclear weapons. So, if these two issues could be connected and resolved effectively, it would be a greatest achievement.

[Snow] Should it be quite so crude? I mean, this amount of aide for X amount of weapons?

[Landsbergis] Of course. But, not only the destruction of these, but also their facilities and the centers. Because, you know it is a danger that they can be bought by other interested countries.

[Snow] But do you think this is realistic? Do you think this is a formula, an equation, that could actually work? Do you think anybody in Russia is really prepared to look at it that way?

[Landsbergis] I can say isn't realistic. [sentence as heard] But, it is possible to see it as a goal, as a main goal. A goal of main importance for Europe and all the world.

[Snow] How extreme are you prepared to be? I mean, no aid? Or, basic aid and then once developmental aid is discussed, then the nuclear issue has to be addressed?

[Landsbergis] People in Russia and peoples of other former Soviet republics need assistance and extreme aid now. My opinion, Western countries must go with this aid, but at the same time very concrete discussion about liquidation of nuclear weapons must be raised.

[Snow] How does the West's response to the aid crisis in the former Soviet Union impinge on Lithuania specifically?

[Landsbergis] At first, this aid, which Russia needs now, is very important to keep for them the way for democracy. We belong, also, on this. Because, the most dangerous event, for us, it would be the coup, revolution, or new totalitarianism in Russia. But also, we would like very much to see small part of this aid would be given for housing for Soviet officers—to be a removal of Soviet Army, from the Soviet Army from Lithuania's soil to be realized in short time.

Vilnius 'Not Responsible' for Soviet Debts

LD2401181992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, now visiting Great Britain, has reported to an international conference in London on the reintegration of the Baltic states into the world community.

Vytautas Landsbergis urged Western states to invest capital into the Lithuanian economy. He stressed that Lithuania, annexed in 1940, was never part of the Soviet Union. Therefore, it is not responsible for Soviet foreign debts.

On the eve of the conference, Landsbergis told Radio Free Europe that as a sign of goodwill Lithuania was ready to compensate those Western credits which had been invested in the Lithuanian economy via Moscow.

Transportation Accord Signed With Poland

LD2701230292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Excerpt] A protocol was signed today at the Lithuanian Ministry of Transportation on legal fundamentals of international transportation between Lithuania and Poland. Valdas Kanapienis with details:

[Kanapienis] The protocol was signed by Jonas Birziskis, the Lithuanian minister of transportation, and Ewaryst Waligorski, the Polish minister of transportation and maritime economy. The first article of the protocol states that the sides are ready to coordinate and sign international agreements between Lithuania and Poland on

international transportation by road, air, and rail by March 1992, and by sea by April of this year.

It is envisaged in the protocol to propose that Lithuania and Poland sign in the nearest future an agreement on a joint border control post on the Szpizski-Kalvarija road to begin by rail regular and international transportation of passengers and goods in June 1992 on the Suwalki-Sestokai route. [passage omitted]

Local Elections in Polish Districts Postponed

LD2401234592 Moscow TASS in English 2146 GMT 23 Jan 92

[By correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius January 24 TASS—The Polish-speaking faction of the Lithuanian parliament proposed a draft resolution on Thursday [23 January] urging elections to local councils in Vilnius and Shalchininsk Districts inhabited mostly by ethnic Poles in March or April 1992.

The councils were disbanded for six months after their leaders were accused of "anti-constitutional activities" and supporting the 1991 August putsch.

However, the majority of republican lawmakers voted for a draft drawn up by a parliamentary commission investigating "anti-constitutional activities" of the councils' officials.

The draft postpones elections to the councils for several months, thus prolonging direct administrative rule in these districts.

Officials, Russian Delegation Discuss Cuba

LD2101053992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Today, members of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Lithuanian Supreme Council and representatives of the republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with a Russian Federation delegation headed by Aleksey Surkhov, a Russian Supreme Soviet Deputy and member of the Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Commission. [passage omitted]

In the course of a friendly meeting, information was exchanged concerning the current communist regime in Cuba and concerning the possibilities of [words indistinct] relations with this Central American country.

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Cuba

LD2601060292 Moscow TASS in English 1338 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] Havana January 25 TASS—Cuba and Lithuania have signed a five-year agreement on economic cooperation and a protocol on bilateral trade in 1992, the PRENSA LATINA news agency reported on Friday [24 January].

Under the agreement, Cuba will supply sugar, citrus, medicines and medical equipment to Lithuania and receive in exchange food products, soap and detergents. The report does not specify the volumes of reciprocal supplies, but emphasises that the bulk of them will be exchanged on the barter basis.

The document reads that the central banks of both states guarantee the financing of bilateral trade operation in 1992.

Manufacturing, Agricultural Production Down

OW2401170392 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1435 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] According to the Lithuanian Government's Statistics Department, there are 9,500 unemployed in Lithuania as of December 21. White-collar workers accounted for 65 per cent of them. At the same time, there are 11,500 vacancies; 80 per cent of them are for workers.

Over the year 1991, the state and state-controlled joint-stock enterprises had manufactured 31 billion rubles worth of goods (in whole-sale prices), which was 1.3 per cent down from the 1990 index.

Agriculture had put out 4.3 billion rubles worth of produce, which was 4 per cent down from the 1990 index. The rate of recession in collective farms stood at 11 per cent (the worth of their output amounted to 2.7 billion rubles), while private farms put out 1.6 billion rubles worth of produce which is 10 per cent more than in 1990.

Agriculture Minister on Production Decline

LD2001130292

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 1010 GMT on 16 January carries a live relay of the Lithuanian Supreme Council's session. The report by Minister of Agriculture Rimvydas Survila is in progress.

Survila speaks about the decline in agriculture production. He names the reduced import of grain as the main factor determining the reduced growth in agriculture production. He says that "this problem will remain for the current year; therefore, most of our cattle breeders, whose cattle is left to graze on the asphalt meadow, and which amounts to several tens of complexes, large poultry farms, and comparatively big producers exporting their produce to the east, now will have to reduce their volume of production unless they are supplied with the required amount of grain. The increase in the production of grain is possible in Lithuania, but this is a process that will take several years."

Speaking about the financial situation in Lithuanian agriculture, the minister mentions specific collective farms that are heavily in debt. He says that this is one of

the factors predetermining that "the wage growth in agriculture fell significantly behind the wages paid at industrial enterprises. The main reason for this is the fact that the prices for industrial goods were liberalized in several stages last year, but the liberalization of prices for agriculture goods is to take place in a few weeks' time."

Survila says that the prices for agricultural resources such as fertilizers, agricultural equipment, building materials, combined fodder, and other materials will increase drastically this year. According to the minister, the price increase will amount to about 12 billion rubles. The minister says that even if all agriculture produce were marketed at market prices, only half of this sum could be raised. "Therefore, we are of the opinion that subsidizing the agricultural expenditure in purchasing fertilizers, power, and other aspects cannot be avoided."

Survila says: "If we had to purchase all the material and technical supplies in the world market for U.S. dollars, we would need about \$1 billion. We think that after marketing our produce under the existing conditions—conditions that are not ideal because the world community does not so far accept our produce at prices that would be real prices and because the manufacturing standard of our goods does not meet the required standards—it would be possible to receive about \$6 million."

Speaking about the trade links with Russia, he says that "at the moment the exchange of goods with Russia is not taking place despite the agreement signed with Russia." He says that attempts were made to compensate for this in trading with other states of the Commonwealth, but that barter with Russia remains the most important. Therefore "we set our hopes on barter with Russia, but in reduced quantities. The supply of agricultural goods to Russia has been essentially maintained. We hope that in the near future, at least following a long-awaited visit, matters will improve." The minister says that "otherwise the situation could become even more complex."

The minister criticizes the government's draft budget, saying that new private farmers should be given more financial assistance through credit on favorable terms, especially to those farmers who go in for agricultural production programs that are promising, including growing flax, hop, sugarbeet, and others.

Following a deterioration in reception, the minister speaks about claims for the reinstatement of land ownership to those who owned land before the war. He says that there were "364,000 applications from citizens seeking ownership on land to be reinstated, which totals 3,686,000 hectares of land. By way of comparison, I must give you this figure: In 1930 there were 287,000 farmers in Lithuania and the Klaipeda region. From the total number of claims received, 151,000 wish to have their land returned and to start farming this spring on what amounts to 1,266,000 hectares."

The minister says if all the claims are met, then each farm will be eight hectares. He says that "such small farms have no future." Following this, he gives figures on

the size of private farms in specific rayons of Lithuania, indicating that in most places these farms will be even smaller.

In conclusion, the minister says that before returning the land to the farmer, it must be determined whether the farmer is capable of sowing the land with crops this spring.

Government To Pay for Grain With Dollars

*LD2701104192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[Text] In order to purchase larger quantities of food and fodder grain for the state, the government of Lithuania decrees:

From 1 February until 1 April, the Ministry of Agriculture is to be allowed, as an incentive to agricultural enterprises and the republic's residents, to pay, apart from the agreed market price in rubles, \$20 for one tonne of wheat or rye, and \$10 for one tonne of fodder grain. This income is not to be used for paying wages.

The Ministry of Finance is to allocate up to \$2 million from the state currency fund to the Ministry of Agriculture for currency payments for grain purchases.

Rents for State Housing To Increase 20-Fold

*LD2501050192 Moscow TASS in English
0815 GMT 23 Jan 92*

[By correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius January 23 TASS—The municipal authorities of Vilnius have issued an ordinance to raise 20-fold the rent for apartments of the state housing stock.

Residents who live in the apartments of the state housing stock will now have to pay 2.61 rubles per square metre of general floor area as against 13 kopeks previously.

Considering that charges for domestic heating have quadrupled and that 35 kopeks shall be paid for one kilowatt of electricity, it is not difficult to calculate that an average family will have to pay 300-400 rubles monthly in rent and utility charges alone.

It is noteworthy that people who have bought housing out will now pay almost ten times as much "for the utilisation of privatised apartments" as they previously paid for their tenancy—1.16 ruble per square metre of general floor space at present. In addition, the ordinance is retroactive—calculations shall be made from January 1.

Municipal bus and trolley-bus fare has also increased from February 1—80 kopeks, 20 times as high as the fare a year ago.